MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 JANUARY 1983

Inter-Arab Affairs

Reaction to Libyan-Syrian-Iranian Statement -- Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, Nuri Isma'il al-Wa'is, met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Tunis and discussed the "serious results" of the recent Libyan-Syrian-Iranian statement issued in Damascus, INA reported. Al-Wa'is asked the Arab League to shoulder its responsibilities and take the "necessary steps" against the Syrian and Libyan regimes, "which have allied themselves with a foreign country against an Arab state and member of the Arab League," INA added. Earlier, a 24 January Amman television commentary denounced the tripartite statement for undermining Arab unity, flagrantly announcing an alliance with a non-Arab country waging war against an Arab country, threatening Arab interests in the Gulf, and pretending steadfastness with the Palestinians while trying to conceal capitulation to the Israeli enemy in Lebanon.

PLO Affairs -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat denounced the "Libyan statement" published by five Palestinian groups in Tripoli which criticized the Fes summit resolutions and the rapprochement among the PLO, Jordan, and Iraq, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Meanwhile, in an AFP interview, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah chided 'Arafat for his contacts with Israelis and pro-American Arab states. 'Arafat defended his meeting with the Jewish delegation in Tunisia as within the framework of PNC decisions approving the development and deepening of relations with "democratic Jewish forces," San'a' Voice of Palestine radio noted citing remarks by 'Arafat in Aden.

In another development Radio Monte Carlo reported that 'Arafat's adviser Hani al-Hasan recently met with Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi in Paris and that the two sides expressed their joint desire to end the Iranian-Iraqi war as soon as possible.

Reaction to OPEC Meeting -- UAE Oil Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah affirmed that OPEC has not failed, although the consultative meeting in Geneva did not reach any agreement on the issues discussed, QNA reported. On his return to Abu Dhabi, Al-'Utaybah announced that the UAE will produce 1.6 million barrels of oil per day, QNA added. Meanwhile, the Saudi paper ARAB NEWS blamed "greed and shortsightedness" for the meeting's failure and expressed fear that a "deadly price war" could develop, according to SPA. A Riyadh radio commentary noted that the "present situation" confirms the credibility of Saudi oil policy, which is based on a realistic, logical, and moderate view. The commentary noted the Kingdom's sacrifices in order to save OPEC unity and criticized the recent behavior of "some OPEC members" that resulted in the failure of the meeting's participants to reach agreement.

OMAN-PDRY Border Talks -- The committee established to settle the border dispute between Oman and the PDRY held its first meeting in Abu Dhabi, WAKH reported. Kuwaiti and UAE delegations participated along with the PDRY and Omani delegations. The Omani delegation head said afterward that the PDRY and Oman had shown a definite desire to reach agreement and had "come a long way" in the talks. The PDRY delegation leader likewise affirmed that his country intends to end all reasons for disputes with Oman, according to another WAKH report.

Syria

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's "rabid and treacherous campaign" against Syria is concomitant with Israel's "continuing clamor" against Syria's air defense installations, TISHRIN declared in an editorial reported by SANA. Both countries share the common objective of striking at Syria's military force and inciting its internal enemies to sow sedition and strife, TISHRIN asserted. However, Syria is "stronger than ever," the

paper added, and its "elements of power" have developed qualitatively and quantitatively and are too great to be harmed or weakened by enemies.

Egypt

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali stated that Egypt will not resume the peace talks unless "their scope is expanded" with the participation of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, MENA reported. Ghali also announced that President Husni Mubarak will urge the U.S. Administration to adopt a "more resolute stand" on the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, MENA added. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali received Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and discussed developments in the West Bani and Gaza Strip as well as the future of the Palestinian people, according to MENA.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- IDF checks revealed that U.S. Marines are positioned at three points that should be under IDF control, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon accused "certain elements" of intentional exaggeration in the presentation of incidents between the Marines and IDF soldiers, according to ITIM. Beirut radio reported that President Amin al-Jumayyil discussed Israeli "provocations" of the U.S. forces during a meeting of the political committee of the mutlnational force's higher liaison body.

Joint Subcommittees -- The Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. subcommittees did not meet on 25 January because of a Lebanese-Israeli dispute about the venue for their meetings, Beirut radio noted.

Afghanistan

Afghan Defense Minister General Abdol Qader visited Mazar-e Sharif, which is surrounded by Soviet and Afghan troops due to the "tense" situation after rebels recently captured 15 Soviet advisers there, AFP reported citing Western diplomats in Islamabad. AFP added that "only known partisans of the regime" are allowed to leave the city while Soviet patrols have stepped up house-to-house searches. In another development Soviet authorities recently tried to reach a truce with resistance leader Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who controls the strategic Panjshir valley, according to AFP. The group met with Mas'ud's deputy and tried in vain to propose an end to the bombardment of Panjshir valley as well as financial reparations in return for Mas'ud's agreement to a cease-fire, AFP noted.

Iran

The Majlis should enact legislation that the National Council of Guardians is likely to approve, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni told Majlis deputies in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio. Asserting that the Council of Guardians does not reject bills without reason, he warned that the government should avoid putting "pressure" on the people. Revolution guards should act responsibly so as not to become unpopular with the people, he added.

Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi subsequently briefed deputies on next year's budget in a speech broadcast by the radio. The economy is growing again, he said, and inflation is falling.

FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 018 *26 January 1983*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Palestinian Revolution Celebrations Begin in PDRY A 1
Salah Khalaf Reported Present A 1
Palestinian Leaders Arrive A 1
Other Fatah Officials A 2
'Arafat on Seven-Member Committee, Celebrations A 2
[San'a' VOP]
SPA on Committee's UK Visit, PLO Delegate A 3
'Arafat Discusses Palestinian-Jordanian Unity [MENA] A 3
PLO Spokesman Denies Interview by 'Arafat [QNA] A 5
DFLP Leader Chides 'Arafat's Actions A 6
AL-MAJALLAH Report on Soviet Arms for Iraq [22-28 Jan] A 6
Salah Khalaf on National Council, UK Stance A 8
[Jidda AL-MADINAH 22 Jan]
Saudi Paper Reports on Libyan-Egyptian Contacts A 9
[Jidda AL-MADINAH 18 Jan]
'Arafat Adviser Meets With Iran's Rajavi A 9
[Radio Monte Carlo]
Kuwaiti Paper on Saudi Mediation Between Syria, Iraq A 9
[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 20 Jan]

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GULF AFFAIRS

PDRY-Oman Border Committee Talks Open in UAE C 1
First Session Ends C 2
PDRY Official on Talks C 2

KUWAIT

Premier on Measures To Protect Oil Interests C 2
AL-ANBA' Scores Syrian-Iranian-Libyan Statement C 3

SAUDI ARABIA

Fahd Chairs Cabinet Session on Mideast Issues C 3
Yamani: Future of Oil Market 'Not Bright' C 4
Petromin Governor Comments on Saudi Oil Policy C 5
Riyadh on Attempts To Undermine OPEC Unity C 5
OPEC 'Failure' Blamed on Greed, Shortsightedness C 6
[Jidda ARAB NEWS 25 Jan]
'Arafat Meeting With Israelis 'an Advance' C 7

UAE

Al-'Utaybah Comments on Geneva OPEC Session C 8
Press Warns of Consequences of OPEC Disunity C 8

PDRY

Soviet Solidarity Delegation Pays Visit to Aden C 10
Arrival Statement C 10
Delegations Hold Talks C 10
Meeting With YSP Secretary C 11
Meeting With Chairman C 11
Talks End C 12
Palestinian Communist Group Arrives in Aden C 12

YAR

President Receives Message From PDRY Chairman C 12

EGYPT

Mubarak Leaves for United States 26 January D 1
AL-AHRAM Views Mubarak's Visit [21 Jan] D 1
Mubarak CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR Interview D 5
Ghali Urges Tougher U.S. Stand Toward Israel D 8
Iraqi Paper Interviews Egypt's Hasan 'Ali [INA] D 9

IRAQ

Arab League Asked To Take Anti-Syria, -Libya Steps E 1
Tariq 'Aziz Sworn In as Foreign Minister E 1
CPC Delegation Arrives in Baghdad 22 Jan E 1
Meets With Official E 1
Armed Forces Command Communiques on Fighting E 2
Communique No 974 E 2
Communique No 975 E 3
Communique No 976 E 3

JORDAN

King Husayn, Queen Nur Leave for Spain, Belgium F 1
'Arafat To Visit After Aden Celebrations F 1
[AR-RA'Y 26 Jan]
Attempts To Split Palestinian Ranks Criticized F 1
Syrian-Libyan-Iranian Statement Criticized F 2
Amman Television F 2
AD-DUSTUR Editorial F 3

LEBANON

Al-Jumayyil Sends Letter to President Mubarak G 1
Envoy Returns G 1
Al-Jumayyil Considers IDF Provocation of Marines G 1
VOL Reports Israeli Demands for Withdrawal G 2
Dispute on Subcommittee Venue Continues G 2
Lebanese Commander on Relations With Israel G 2
[Radio Free Lebanon]
Sa'd Haddad 'Ready To Withdraw' if Asked G 2

Source Holds U.S. Responsible for Talks Failure G 3
[Voice of Arab Lebanon]
Press on Habib's Mission, Negotiations Progress G 4
Deputies Attack Al-Qadhdhafi's Islam Call G 4
Salim To React [Radio Free Lebanon] G 5
Official Says Israeli Army Kills 4 in 10 Days [Jerusalem] G 5
Explosion in Beirut; Israelis Raid Baysur G 5
Search Sidon Area G 5
Israeli Restrictions on UNIFIL Continue G 5

SYRIA

Papers Comment on Plots Against Syria H 1
AL-BA'TH on Reactionary Attempts H 1
TISHRIN on Egyptian, Israeli Stands H 1
Trade Minister Leaves for Bulgaria 23 Jan H 2
Briefs: Credentials of New Ambassadors H 2

ISRAEL

Hassan Invites Israelis To Talk With PLO I 1
Begin: We Don't Want Confrontation With U.S. I 1
Sharon Stresses 'U.S. Friendship' for Israel I 2
Shamir on U.S., Israeli Positions, Lebanon I 2
MA'ARIV Views U.S. 'Pressure,' Talks Recess [25 Jan] I 3
Marines Reportedly at Positions IDF Should Hold I 4
Commentator Examines Reagan Message to Begin I 4
[MA'ARIV 21 Jan]
Sharon Comments on Early Warning Stations I 9
Eytan on Lebanon Situation, West Bank Policy I 10
[JERUSALEM POST 26 Jan]
2 Explosions in Southern Lebanon Reported I 10

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Message From Ethiopian Leader Q 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Speech at Romanian Banquet Q 1

MOROCCO

Tazi Receives Austrian Foreign Minister Pahr Q 1
Tazi, Saudi's 'Ali Rida Lead Joint Committee [SPA] Q 2

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Interviewed on Nonaligned Meeting [TANJUG] Q 2
Algerian Interior Minister's Visit Appraised [APS] Q 3
Chedli Klibi Returns From Morocco 23 January Q 4

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Issues Communique 22 Jan on New Campaign [APS] Q 4

EAST AFRICA

TANZANIA

Reportage on 4-Day Visit by Zimbabwe's Mugabe R 1
Welcomed by Nyerere [Harare] R 1
Talks With Nyerere R 1
Speaks at Dinner [Harare] R 1
Leaders Speak on Namibia R 2
Mugabe in Dodoma R 2

UGANDA

Internal Affairs Minister Rejects 'Bandit's' Claims R 3

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Chad's Miskine Delivers Habre Message to Biya S 1

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

National Solidarity Tax To Be Extended to All S 1

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

Report on Nigeria Border Situation T 1

GHANA

Activities Resulting From Quit Order Reported T 1
Benin Approves Sending Ships T 1
Airlines To Operate Flights T 1
Togo Closes Benin Border T 2

NIGERIA

Interior Minister Announces Quit Order Extension T 2
Ghanaian Ship Arrives at Warri Port 25 Jan T 3
Niger Citizens in Kaduna Begin Leaving T 3
Students Demonstrate at National Assembly T 4

TOGO

Sources Say Nigeria To Extend Deadline T 4
Eyadema Asks Ghana Minister To Visit Lome T 5

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Air Force Anniversary Speech by Defense Minister U 1
Reports of U.S. Bank Loan Not Confirmed U 2
Message Received From ANC on Attacks U 2

MOZAMBIQUE

Two More Portuguese Nationals Detained U 3
VOFA Commentary on Pipeline Sabotage, Executions U 3

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Confirms RSA-Angola Negotiations To Resume U 4
UNITA Threatens To Ignore Angola Cease-fire U 4
Ambassador To Meet UN Secretary General U 4
Botha Dismisses Speculation on Early Election U 5

ZIMBABWE

Ushewokunze on Need for State of Emergency U 5
[THE HERALD 20 Jan]

PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION CELEBRATIONS BEGIN IN PDRY

GF251750 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpt] The central celebrations of the 15th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution began in Aden today with a major procession by torchbearers. The procession was attended by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad; Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman; a number of Political Bureau and Central Committee members; senior party and government officials; leaders of the Palestinian revolution factions; and a large congregation of people.

Before the march, the audience stood for 1 minute in respect for Yemeni revolution martyrs who were killed in defense of the Palestinian revolution. Brothers 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Yasir 'Arafat, and other Yemeni and Palestinian officials lit the torch to begin the procession which went from the main Al-Mu'alla Street to the At-Tawahi martyrs memorial square amid shouts by citizens who filled the street chanting slogans expressing our people's support and solidarity with the Palestinian revolution until victory.

Salah Khalaf Reported Present

GF250730 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Aden, 24 Jan (WAKH) -- Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Aden last night to participate in celebrations of the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

Palestinian Leaders Arrive

GF251614 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpt] A number of Palestinian organization leaders arrived in Aden this morning to attend celebrations of the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution which will begin in Aden today.

Brothers Khalid al-Fahum, PNC chairman; Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Political Department; Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, the PLO's official spokesman; Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, Ahmad al-Yamani, Talal Naji, Muhammad Khalifah, and Dr Hanna Nasir, PLO Executive Committee members; (?Salim az-Za'nun), Fatah Central Committee member; and Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestinian liberation front, arrived for this occasion.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Khalid al-Fahum expressed his happiness over his visit to the PDRY and lauded the support and solidarity stand by the PDRY people and government on the Palestinian people's cause in their struggle to attain all their national rights. He noted that the meetings of the Palestinian leadership and the activities of the celebrations of the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution confirm the strong ties and close relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions.

Other Fatah Officials

GF231819 Aden ANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Aden, 23 Jan (ANA) -- Palestinian revolution leaders continue to arrive in Aden to participate in the celebrations that will be held on the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

The members of Fatah's revolutionary council have arrived and they are led by Sakhr Abu Nizar, the council's secretary; Abu al-'Abd 'Akluk, deputy secretary; Colonel Sa'id Musa -- Abu Musa -- deputy director of the central operations room; and 'Ali Ishaq, member of the Palestinian liberation front's Political Bureau.

At the same time, Colonel Wasif 'Urayqat -- Abu Ra'd -- leader of the Palestinian artillery, arrived in the company of a number of military personnel.

'ARAFAT ON SEVEN-MEMBER COMMITTEE, CELEBRATIONS

GF251846 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has affirmed that the celebrations in Aden marking the eruption of the revolution can be called the second Palestinian miracle; the first Palestinian miracle occured in Beirut and Lebanon in the confrontation of the invading Zionist troops. This came in a statement made by Brother Abu 'Ammar in the Ash-Shati' az-Zahabi Hotel in Aden today to Arab and foreign journalists and a number of delegations participating in celebrations of the eruption of the revolution.

Brother Abu 'Ammar began his statement by answering a question about the most recent contacts between the seven-member committee and the British Government and whether the committee will leave for Britain. He said that the visit by the seven-member committee has been postponed because of continuing differences with the British Government. He said: In the last few days I met a British envoy and received from him a formula about that. I discussed this formula with King Hassan II. Brother Abu 'Ammar did not reveal the identity of the British envoy or the details of the formula.

Asked if the PLO will be represented in this committee, Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the discussions of the seven-member committee were centered on the representation of the PLO. Answering a question about the identity of the Palestinian figure who will participate in the committee, he said that he is Palestinian from the PLO and he will meet with the queen, the prime minister, and the foreign secretary. Brother Abu 'Ammar refused to reveal the identity of the Palestinian figure or his position.

Answering a question by the correspondent of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN concerning his recent meeting with the Jewish delegation in Tunisia, he pointed out that the delegation represents the peace camp and it is from the democratic forces inside the occupied lands. He added that this meeting was a continuation of a previous meeting held in Moscow with the secretary general of the Israeli Communist Party. He added that the Palestinian meetings with these forces come within the framework of the PLO's policy and the decisions of sessions of the PNC, which approved the development and deepening of relations with democratic Jewish forces.

Regarding the idea behind holding the celebrations of the revolution in Aden, Brother Abu 'Ammar said: Have you forgotten that the Yemen is three countries: the southern part, the northern part, and the Palestinian part? We are holding our celebrations in our Palestinian part.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: Our celebrations this year mark the second Palestinian miracle after the miracle of Beirut and Lebanon in confronting the Zionist forces. During our withdrawal from Beirut, Habib said that the Palestinians were emigrating for the forth time. While we are celebrating the anniversary of our revolution, we assure them that within only 4 months the Palestinian revolution was able to reorganize its ranks on all military, oranizational, political, and administrative levels. This the second Palestinian miracle.

Brother Abu 'Ammar concluded his statement by saying that the coming days will further prove that the Palestinian homeland is (?most difficult) and no one can (?bypass) it. It is the difficult figure in the Middle East equation.

SPA ON COMMITTEE'S UK VISIT, PLO DELEGATE

LD251650 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] London, 25 Jan (SPA) -- London, Britain, today announced that the Arab seven-member committee's visit to London will take place at the beginning of February. A spokesman for the British Foreign Office informed SPA in the British capital that the Moroccan and British Governments have reached a compromise solution on this matter and the two governments are in constant contact regarding the visit of the Arab League mission led by King Hassan II of Morocco.

The spokesman said that the Palestinian member of the committee will be a personal representative of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The Foreign Office believes that this personal representative will be the (former) mayor of Halhul, in the West Bank, Muhammad Milhim, who has been expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities. Milhim has visited Britain many times previously and has met British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

It is interesting to note that 'Arafat stated in Aden yesterday that the organization was going to reply next week to the new British proposal regarding Palestinian participation in the Arab seven-member committee's visit to London. He said the proposal was the subject of a peripheral discussion between him and King Hassan II at the committee's meeting in Marrakesh on 21 and 22 January during the Jerusalem Committee meeting.

The Moroccan monarch canceled the previous date for the seven-member committee's visit to Britain toward the end of last year due to unacceptable conditions laid down by Britain regarding Palestinian representation in the committee.

'ARAFAT DISCUSSES PALESTINIAN-JORDANIAN UNITY

NC242032 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1916 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Paris, 24 Jan (MENA) -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the Palestinians are prepared for immediate unity [wahdah] with Jordan as soon as an independent Palestinian state is established.

In an interview with the magazine KUL AL-'ARAB, 'Arafat said that the relations of unity will be based on a federal [ittihadiyah] or confederal basis as soon as the independent Palestinian identity emerges within the framework of the Palestinian state which has been approved by international law as well as on the basis of equality.

Replying to a question from the magazine, which is published in Paris, as to when Palestinian-Jordanian unity will be achieved, 'Arafat said: We are ready for it immediately, but it is the circumstances that govern such a Jordanian-Palestinian unity.

In his interview with KUL AL-'ARAB, Yasir 'Arafat emphasized that the PLO is for peace provided it is based on recognizing Palestinian national rights, which have been recognized and approved by international law, including the Palestinian people's rights to return, to self-determination, and to establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. 'Arafat added that these demands are based on the Fes summit resolutions.

Responding to another question about the outcome of his meetings with King Husayn of Jordan and Jordanian officials and his visualization of future relations between the two sides, 'Arafat said very confidently: I am very satisfied with all the meetings I have had with King Husayn. These meetings have had fruitful, positive, and constructive results and were characterized by complete frankness. It was agreed that we will work within the framework of the declaration propounded by King Husayn following the Fes summit on the establishment of federal or confederal relations.

'Arafat pointed out that during the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings in Amman on all levels, an agreement was reached on the most important detailed basis for Jordanian-Palestinian relations and their basic principles.

Replying to a question on whether King Husayn briefed him on the results of his contacts in Washington last momth, 'Arafat said: What his majesty the king told me was that he felt very optimistic about the results of his visit to Washington but, frankly speaking, I do not share King Husayn's optimism.

'Arafat pointed out in this respect that the Americans have not honored their promises to the Palestinians and that they, according to 'Arafat, have not even honored their written agreements with us -- agreements which were reached in Beirut. They have not honored these agreements and have not committed themselves to them, but they helped the Israelis commit the terrible massacre in Sabra and Shatila of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples.

Asked about international circles' emphasis on the need for mutual recognition [by the PLO and Israel] as a condition for achieving a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, Yasir 'Arafat said: In other words, the victim is required to pay the price. I wonder and ask world public opinion and all international parties: Is this justice?

He added: Let us be more realistic. Begin himself has said more than once: I am not in need of the Palestinians' recognition of Israel. The people who are calling on the PLO to recognize Israel have not read what the Israel prime minister has stated.

Yasir 'Arafat went on to say: Begin says: I do not want to recognize the Palestinians. After all this, voices are raised telling us: By God, you must first recognize Israel. I regard such logic as lame and absolutely unjust, because by this they are asking the victim to recognize the murderer. No, we reject such logic.

In his interview Yasir 'Arafat answered a question about the roles of Europe and the Soviet Union, alongside the U.S. role, in achieving peace in the Middle East. He said: Europe has an important role, because it influences U.S. opinion and U.S. policy directly. Furthermore, Europe is tied to the United States by important strategic relations.

'Arafat also emphasized that Europe is capable of playing an important role in influencing Israel by applying political and economic pressure to force Israel to recognize the Palestinian people's rights.

Concerning the Soviet Union's role, the Palestinian leader expressed his belief that no one can disregard the Soviet Union's role -- in its capacity as one of the two superpowers -- in the Palestinian issue. He said: We consider the Soviet Union a friendly country that stands alongside the Palestinian cause.

Yasir 'Arafat, asked whether he is in touch with the French Government and whether he will make an official visit to France, replied: During the battle and siege of Beirut, I was in touch with French President Francois Mitterrand and with the French Government. I am still in touch with the French presidency and with the government. However, concerning the subject of a visit to Paris, 'Arafat said that now is not the time to talk about a visit.

With regard to his meeting last month with Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, the PLO chairman said that the discussion dealt with several subjects related to the Palestinian cause, the Middle East, the role of the Socialist International, and efforts being exerted to achieve a peaceful settlement in the area. The discussion also dealt with the exchange of prisoners between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

PLO SPOKESMAN DENIES INTERVIEW BY 'ARAFAT

GF211252 Doha QNA in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jan (QNA) -- An official Palestinian information source in Tunisia has denied that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat granted an interview to the Egyptian publication AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI.

In a statement carried by WAFA, the source said 'Arafat has not given any interview to the journalist Dr Sa'd ad-Din Ibrahim but that the Palestinian leader merely received Dr Ibrahim in Tunisia when he accompanied Murad Ghalib, a former Egyptian foreign minister, and Ahmad Hamrush, the well-known Egyptian writer.

The source said that the only interview given by 'Arafat at the time was that granted to Ahmad Hamrush -- an interview that was granted privately in the absence of Sa'd ad-Din Ibrahim -- and was published in the Egyptian magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF.

In its latest issue AL-AHRAM AL-IQTISADI quoted 'Arafat as calling on President Husni Mubarak not to ask the PLO to recognize Israel and cited him as saying that he "deserves not to be asked to recognize Israel because I did not ask Egypt to abrogate the peace agreements it concluded with Israel."

DFLP LEADER CHIDES 'ARAFAT ACTIONS

NC251642 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, Jan 25 (AFP) -- The head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) Marxist faction has chided PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat for contacts with Israelis and pro-American Arab states, indicating a widening rift in the Palestinian leadership. Nayif Hawatimah, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said in an AFP interview here that the PLO was under "strong pressure" from pro-American Arab regimes to unconditionally recognize Israel's right to exist, and to accept U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace plan.

While not directly accusing Mr. 'Arafat of succumbing to this pressure, Mr. Hawatimah reproached the PLO chairman for his recent contacts with the pro-U.S. Egyptian Government of President Husni Mubarak, and for his meeting with three Israeli personalities in Tunis, a meeting he termed "theatrical" and "of little use."

Mr. Hawatimah also scolded pro-American Arab regimes for wanting to integrate the Reagan plan with that drafted by the Arab League summit in Fes last September. The Arab League proposal calls for an independent Palestinian state. The Reagan plan simply calls for "full autonomy" for the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip "in association with Jordan."

"The pro-American regimes are playing a dangerous game with the Fes decisions in supporting an interpretation which undermines the Palestinian people's right to an independent state and to self-determination, as well as the PLO's right to represent this people," said Mr. Hawatimah.

He said a Palestinian resistance meeting in Aden last month had vetoed contact with Egypt, and had called for Mr. 'Arafat's public rejection of the Reagan plan, neither of which edicts the PLO chief has obeyed.

The DFLP leader also noted that the Aden meeting had ruled against any PLO mandate to Jordan, although he did not denounce the several Jordanian-Palestinian meetings that have been held, saying only that Mr. 'Arafat's action in this regard posed "a certain ambiguity which requires clarification."

AL-MAJALLAH REPORT ON SOVIET ARMS FOR IRAQ

PM241531 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 22-28 Jan 83 pp 18-20

[Muhammad Ma'tuq report: "Return of the Russians to the Middle East"]

[Excerpts] Large consignments of sophisticated Soviet weapons began arriving in Iraq last week via the Jordanian port of Aqaba while Moscow as talking about a role it must plan to end the Iraqi-Iranian war which has been raging for 2 and 1/2 years. This is the first time the Soviet Union has used this tone and criticized the internal situation in Iran since the shah's downfall in 1979.

According to information on the Gulf war, obtained by AL-MAJALLAH from well-informed Arab sources, a high-level Iraqi delegation paid a secret visit to Moscow 3 weeks ago, learned the minute details of the new Soviet position, achieved identity of views with Soviet leaders on the Iraqi-Iranian war, and reached agreement with them on large armament contracts.

The Iraqi three-member delegation was headed by Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan and included Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Iraqi Chief of Staff 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal.

After the visit to Moscow by the Iraqi delegation led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Moscow began supplying Iraq with arms according to an agreement reached outside the framework of the contracts signed before the war. This is a definite indication of a change in the Soviet position. The arms include the latest T-72 tanks, surface-to-air anti-aircraft missiles, and various types of MIG aircraft.

The Arab sources say that it was King Husayn who paved the way for the Iraqi delegation's secret visit when he was at the head of the Arab seven-member committee delegation visiting Moscow as one stage of the delegation's tour of the permanent member states of the Security Council to inform them of the Fes resolutions.

The same sources add that, while in Moscow, King Husayn urged Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov to take a clear stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war because of Iran's expansionist aims. The Soviets promised him that they would and explained that Moscow was now prepared to respond to an Arab -- not just an Iraqi -- request in this connection.

The sources maintain that the Iraqi delegation began its talks in Moscow after the new Soviet position was adopted. Addressing the delegation, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko said Soviet neutrality in the Gulf war would not be a permanent stance if Iran continued its aggression against Iraq, and that the Iranian forces' crossing of the Iraqi borders eliminated the justification for the neutrality adopted over the past 2 years.

The Arab sources say that the Soviet Union's change of heart was caused by recent changes in the region, especially Iran, where religious leaders have been denouncing the Soviet Union, putting pressure on those whom they consider to be its friends and showing hostility toward the Soviet Union with their increasing support for the Afghan rebels fighting the Soviet military occupation forces in Afghanistan.

The sources say that one of the reasons for this change is the personality and convictions of Andropov himself. They believe the new Soviet leader wants to adopt firm policies to change the international map he inherited from Leonid Brezhnev and that the Gulf war is one of the priorities in this change. Andropov, according to the same sources, believes that a Soviet failure to honor its commitments to Iraq, with which the Soviet Union has a friendship and cooperation treaty, would destroy the Soviet Union's image among its friends in Europe and the Third World.

What did the Iraqi delegation tell the Soviets during the secret visit?

According to information available to AL-MAJALLAH, the Iraqi delegation clearly explained that it was not concerned with the internal situation in Iran except to the degree dictated by the natural development of events there, meaning that Iraq was not interested in giving foreign powers the opportunity to create an alternative [regime] in Iran, that Iraq is interested only in defending its own national soil, and that the continuation of the war is a threat to the entire region. The delegation also said Iraq wanted defensive, not offensive, weapons and that it was logical that the Soviet Union should support Iraq since the Iranian rulers have openly declared their intention to expand at Iraq's expense.

The sources say that all the Iraqi requests were granted, especially where arms are concerned, and that only 1 week after the visit large quantities of Soviet heavy arms began to arrive in Iraq by giant Soviet Antonov transport planes. Several Soviet ships sailed to the Jordanian port of Aqaba with other large quantities.

Informed Arab sources told AL-MAJALLAH that the Soviet Union pointed out that it was not upset by Iraq's call for Egypt's return to the Arab fold because the Soviet Union itself was dreaming of returning to Egypt. It agreed with Iraq that it would be better to embrace Egypt than to leave it on its own and isolated in the face of the United States and Israel and that Egypt could not be in a strong negotiating position with the United States and Israel without strong Arab backing.

The U.S. attitude and initiative were among the main topics on the agenda of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's talks in Moscow last week. According to Palestinian sources, 'Arafat personally asked to meet with Soviet leader Andropov because he attached great importance to his visit. 'Arafat arrived in Moscow from Amman where he held talks, lasting 2 days, with King Husayn, who showed him a written undertaking by President Ronald Reagan recognizing Arab rights in the occupied territories, including east Jerusalem. This was revealed by King Husayn himself, who said in a press statement that Reagan also promised to use his influence to persuade Israel to accept his peace initiative.

Palestinian sources say the Soviet leaders repeated to 'Arafat their insistence on the idea of an international conference under the supervision of the two superpowers attended by all parties concerned with the Middle East crisis including the PLO. They voiced opposition to the U.S. single-handed approach to a settlement of the crisis. They did, however, convey to 'arafat their support for Palestinian-Jordanian and Palestinian-Egyptian rapprochement.

SALAH KHALAF ON NATIONAL COUNCIL, UK STANCE

GF241738 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 22 Jan 83 p 15

[Part three of interview with Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, by AL-MADINAH correspondent in Tunis Muhammad 'Ali al-Klibi -- date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Although the [Palestine] National Council has delayed its meeting several times, the meeting is now scheduled to be held in Algeria on 14 February. Since the meeting has been delayed, we cannot deny the fact or that this is the first time the council has delayed a meeting. Some people believe that this delay was a result of a request by the PLO, which wants the most recent political moves clarified on both the Arab and international levels. Others see that some Arab parties wanted this delay in order to render the [PLO] Executive Committee impotent. What are the facts behind all that?

[Answer] Regrettably, the enemy used some Arab countries and some of the Palestinian leaderships indirectly in order to divide the Palestinian arena. In order to foil this Zionist plan, we decided to delay the PNC meeting. The second reason for this delay is that we wanted to assess the reliability of the political process and political move, the Fes summit, and the Reagan plan. We had to have a comprehensive picture on both the Arab and international arenas and on all the moves which were made. Now the Arab and international political stands have become crystal clear. We now understand the U.S. position and the Soviet and European positions.

[Question] Regarding Britain's stance toward the seven-member committee, what action should be taken against this country in order to put an end to this plaything?

[Answer] Regrettably, we seem to have become accustomed to accepting the minimal limit because anything above the minimum is not in our calculations; otherwise, it is supposed that we would punish Britain and boycott it economically and even diplomatically because this country is the first party responsible for all that has happened to Palestine. Basically, the United States would not have refused to receive our representative if the Arabs had been serious in their stands and decisions. However, we are in dire need of recognizing the necessity of halting the advance of this age.

SAUDI PAPER REPORTS ON LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN CONTACTS

GF221436 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 18 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] AL-MADINAH has learned from diplomatic sources in Cairo that contacts are being held between Egypt and Libya to reduce the tension in their relations. The sources said that a number of Libyan delegations visited Egypt to improve relations with the regime of President Husni Mubarak.

Journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, former diplomat Ashraf Murwan, Egyptian National Progressive Unionist [Grouping] Party leader Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, and the other opposition parties are contributing toward improving these relations.

The results of these contacts are not yet known.

'ARAFAT ADVISER MEETS WITH IRAN'S RAJAVI

JN251759 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] It was revealed in Paris today that Hani al-Hasan, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, met recently in Paris with Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq organization. In a statement following the meeting, the organization said that the two sides expressed the joint desire to end the Iranian-Iraqi war as soon as possible and to establish peace between the two countries.

KUWAIT PAPER ON SAUDI MEDIATION BETWEEN SYRIA, IRAQ

GF211514 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] AL-ANBA' has learned from well-informed Arab sources that the pivot of current contacts Saudi Arabia is making with Iraq and Syria is to bridge the gap between the two countries in order to achieve a true reconciliation that will culminate in a summit meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Riyadh shortly to complete the mediation which began during the recent Fes summit conference, at which it was agreed to hold such a meeting.

The sources said the Saudi mediation is intended to achieve a rapprochement between fraternal Syria and Iraq through stages which will begin with allowing Iraq's oil to pass through Syria to the ports of Tartus and Tripoli and then begin direct political negotiations on the ministerial level under Saudi supervision and ultimately reach the expected meeting between the two presidents.

The sources added that Saudi Arabia believes such a step is the only one that can be a true beginning to end the Gulf war, which is more than 2 years old and which is harming not only Iraq's and Iran's interests but also the Arab nation's supreme national interests. In particular the war has diverted Arab efforts, creating the current Arab situation with the aggressive campaign against the Arabs that is unprecedented in history.

GULF AFFAIRS

PDRY-OMAN BORDER COMMITTEE TALKS OPEN IN UAE

GF251920 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1825 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jan (WAKH) -- The meeting of the technical committee for settling the border dispute between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY began at the Hilton in Abu Dhabi today with the participation of delegations from the UAE and Kuwait. The Sultanate of Oman's delegation to this meeting was headed by Muhammad 'Ali al-Ghutaybi, deputy minister of state and Dhofar governor; the PDRY delegation was headed by Deputy Interior Minister 'Abd al-Wasi' Salam; the UAE delegation was headed by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan; and the Kuwaiti delegation was headed by Dr Tariq ar-Ruzughi, director of the legislative administration at the Foreign Ministry.

During its meeting, which will continue for 2 days, the committee will discuss settlement of the border dispute between the Sultanate of Oman and the PDRY in light of the documents which will be presented by the two sides following the signing of the agreement of principles between the two countries in Kuwait last October as a result of the good-will efforts made by the UAE and Kuwait to eliminate the differences between the two fraternal countries.

At the beginning of the meeting 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan stated that the principles achieved during the meetings held in Kuwait last October expressed the intentions of the two fraternal countries and the firm determination to forget the past and establish understanding and coexistence instead of division and dispute.

He stated that this agreement had a positive effect because it reflected a feeling of optimism and hope on the popular level and a positive aspect on the official level and the positive gains achieved by this agreement not only is in the interest of Oman and PDRY but in the interest of the whole region as well.

He affirmed that those principles could not have been achieved without the positive spirit and honest keenness expressed by Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali, PDRY minister of foreign affairs.

'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan lauded the effective role played by Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and information, since the beginning of the efforts to reconcile Muscat and Aden.

The UAE Foreign Ministry under secretary called on the two sides to put disputes aside and endeavor for the general interest. He said: Even though these principles are important, ambitions and hopes will not be verified if we do not work together and apply it honestly. He also called for foiling those who doubt this agreement and attempt to hinder it and demanded joint efforts to obviate whatever might hinder the relations between the two countries.

After the UAE official spoke, the work of the session began and the delegation members were confined to discussing the issues on the agenda.

The four-party meeting, which is intended to normalize relations between Oman and the PDRY and achieve the agreement of principles which was concluded between them, will discuss the means of implementing this agreement, particularly the demarcation of their shared border.

The conferees, including the mediating Kuwaiti and UAE parties, will also discuss the documents which the Omani and the PDRY delegations will present on the border and will review the two delegations' points of view.

The first meeting to remove the difference between the two countries was held in Kuwait on instructions from the GCC countries and under Kuwaiti and UAE patronage.

The agreement of principles signed between the two countries on 27 October 1982 regulates relations between Oman and the PDRY and includes noninterference in internal affairs, mutual respect for national sovereignty, the issue of borders, media campaigns, and exchange of diplomatic representation.

First Session Ends

GF251930 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1838 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jan (WAKH) -- The first session of the technical committee for [demarcating] the Omani-PDRY border -- in which the UAE and Kuwait are participating -- ended this evening.

In a statement after the meeting, 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Jarwan, UAE Foreign Ministry under secretary and head of the UAE delegation taking part in the committee's meetings, said that during the meeting the two sides exchanged views on border issues. He said that the committee will resume its meetings tomorrow, Wednesday, to complete its discussion of the topics on its agenda and to hear the views of the two sides on these topics.

Muhammad 'Ali al-Ghutaybi, deputy minister of state, governor of Dhofar, and head of the Omani delegation, said that a number of border issues were discussed during the meeting in a true fraternal spirit and with a definite desire to reach a fraternal agreement among the two countries. The leader of the Omani delegation said that the two sides have come a long way in the talks.

PDRY Official on Talks

GF251945 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1907 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jan (WAKH) -- 'Abd al-Wasi' Salam, deputy interior minister and chairman of the PDRY delegation at the border committee meetings with Oman, affirmed that his country intends to terminate all reasons for disputes with Oman.

Salam stated that the PDRY is fully ready to present enough documents that will assist in demarcating its borders with Oman and terminate the existing disputes.

He added: We feel that the keenness to execute the agreement of principles achieved in Kuwait recently, with all its articles, which are the basis for establishing normal relations between the PDRY and Oman, will help to strengthen stability and security in the region.

KUWAIT

PREMIER ON MEASURES TO PROTECT OIL INTERESTS

LD251236 Kuwait KUNA in English 1052 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 25 (KUNA) -- Kuwait will have to take necessary measures to protect its own interests if some members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries continue to breach OPEC's policies, the crown prince and prime minister said Tuesday.

Commenting on the outcome of OPEC's ministerial conference which concluded in disarray Monday, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah told KUNA that while taking such measures, Kuwait will continue to act to enhance solidarity between oil exporting countries with the hope that those producers will handle the problem in a rational manner and give priority to common interests.

Regretting the Geneva meeting's failure, the crown prince said Kuwait, which has always abided by OPEC's resolutions, appeals to all members to follow suit to preserve the organization's unity through an agreement safeguarding the interests of all parties.

At the Geneva meeting, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia demanded that some OPEC members raise the price of their quality crude to leave room for other members to compete in the market.

AL-ANBA' SCORES SYRIAN-IRANIAN-LIBYAN STATEMENT

GF251300 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 25 Jan 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Manama, 25 Jan (WAKH) -- The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' sharply criticizes the tripartite statement issued by Syria, Libya, and Iran, and calls for adopting an Arab stand on behavior that harms the pan-Arab [qawmiyyah] issues.

The newspaper says the tripartite statement was issued at a time when the Arabs were calling on each other to unite their stance in order to confront the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and when the Arab liberation movement needed every ounce of effort and every rifle and bullet. Furthermore, the newspaper says the Syrian-Libyan-Iranian statement, which breaks every heart throbbing with Arabism, will not be a historical testimony because it was issued against history and conveys what even its signatories reject when they are alone with their consciences. It is a statement the nation crosses out from its language and history and it will change nothing in the arena because it contains nothing new, practically and actually. The only new thing about it is that it was made public after its facts had been there through 2 years of war. AL-ANBA' explains that the statement hurts and makes us reconsider our stands that built castles in the air.

The newspaper concludes: Those who long thought with good intentions to reach an honorable and fraternal end to this war should understand quite well that their destiny is bound to victory and that there is no other way to that except the arena of unified pan-Arab action, which turns defeat into glory and victory. Iraq, with no protective or supportive army, has kept harm from its cities, villages, and border and will remain capable of defeating the aggressors.

SAUDI ARABIA

FAHD CHAIRS CABINET SESSION ON MIDEAST ISSUES

LD242324 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2147 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Jan (SPA) -- The Council of Ministers this evening held a meeting under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Following the meeting, which ended at midnight, his excellency the information minister, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, told SPA that the council began by reviewing the current Arab situation in the region and heard a statement by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who expressed his interest in the developments witnessed in the Arab arena, and said that this requires attention, sincere and serious action, and total understanding of the dimensions of these developments and their impact on the region.

His majesty the king reaffirmed the Kingdom's concern for the stability of the situation in fraternal Lebanon and the return of security and calm to that country. His majesty said that the Kingdom is anxious to back and support Lebanon in order to preserve its independence and sovereignty and ensure the Israeli occupation forces' withdrawal from the Lebanese territories.

Commenting on the current Arab situation, his majesty the king said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is anxious to bolster Arab action and unity of rank and word to serve our fateful issues, primarily the Palestinian question, and to confront the dangers threatening the region.

His Majesty King Fahd said that it is not in our interest to squander efforts at this sensitive and critical stage because the enemy would be the first to benefit from such differences and disunity.

His excellency the information minister stated that the council then reviewed the work of the seventh meeting of the Jerusalem Committee held in Marrakech under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II of fraternal Morocco, who is the committee chairman.

Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal submitted a report on the results of that meeting.

Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani added that the council also reviewed the results of the consultative meeting of the OPEC oil ministers in Geneva. His majesty the king reaffirmed the Kingdom's desire to preserve OPEC and the interests of the oil-exporting and importing states.

His majesty said: We have always tried to pursue a logical, realistic, and moderate policy that takes into account the fundamental factors that ought to govern production and prices. The current situation has shown the correctness of the policy the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has called for in the past, in which we reaffirmed our concern for the interest of both exporting and importing states.

His excellency said that the council was briefed on the results of the meeting held by his majesty the king with U.S. envoy Philip Habib and Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta. The council was also informed of the contents of the message conveyed by Minister of State and member of the Council of Ministers Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

YAMANI: FUTURE OF OIL MARKET 'NOT BRIGHT'

GF251936 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Ahmad Zaki Yamani, petroleum and mineral affairs minister, said after the OPEC ministerial meeting yesterday that the Kingdom will do its utmost to protect the basic oil price. He said the near future for the oil market is not bright and said he expects a $2-$3 drop in the price of the North Sea oil.

Yamani added that the (?Gulf countries) will probably find themselves forced to decrease their oil price. He hoped that the OPEC members will meet shortly.

The minister of petroleum and mineral affairs said the OPEC members are worried over the stability of the oil market. He added that investment in the domain of alternative energy sources no longer generates enough revenues.

PETROMIN GOVERNOR COMMENTS ON SAUDI OIL POLICY

GF241207 Jidda Domestic Service inArabic 1000 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Hadi Tahir, governor of the General Establishment for Petroleum and Minerals [Petromin], has affirmed that the Kingdom's oil policy is based on achieving the principle of balance between its national interests and the interests of the world's peoples and countries and the stability of international community. He described this policy as being the principle of the Kingdom's oil policy as far as the OPEC countries and people are concerned.

In a statement published by the newspaper 'UKAZ today, Dr Tahir said that the Kingdom is keen on keeping OPEC united and thus maintaining OPEC's cohesion and guiding the Kingdom's oil energy policy toward good investments. It will also preserve for coming generations their full right to opportunities for success and progress. This will be achieved through cooperation with the OPEC member countries, particularly the Gulf countries, he added.

Dr Tahir called upon the Geneva conference to come up with a clear and comprehensive agreement that would be specific and binding on all parties and would take into account the necessity for eventually adhering to a standard price. He also asked OPEC to think of its future free from the affects of the current political and military circumstances which force certain members into making decisions that do not serve the world economy.

He pointed out that Iran's increasing its oil production to more than the rate decided by OPEC does not serve OPEC's balanced policies. It is rather in pursuit of political aims that conflict with the economic interests of the OPEC countries and peoples and with the interests of Iran itself, he said.

RIYADH ON ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE OPEC UNITY

GF251811 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Jasir 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir commentary]

[Text] Brothers, once again the present situation confirms the credibility of Saudi Arabia's oil policy, a policy which Saudi Arabia has defended and sought to consolidate for more than two decades. It is a policy based on a realistic, logical, and moderate view. It is a policy based on the main factors that govern production and prices. It is based on the concern for the interests of both oil-exporting and oil-importing countries.

Through its effective presence in OPEC, Saudi Arabia has strived to gain support for this policy so as to serve the interests of all of mankind. This has enabled OPEC to make a great and acknowledged contribution in activating the world economy, which depends primarily on oil for its activity, development, and prosperity. The energy from oil was the main source of strength for the world economy in confronting the serious challenges brought about by sharp political developments which had varying negative effects on political and trade relations among countries of the world, and prevented their deterioration.

Thanks to its wise production, pricing, marketing policies — in whose formuation Saudi Arabia played a major role -- and thanks to the sacrifices of many of its members for the sake of the common interest of the international community, OPEC has succeeded in absorbing 70 percent of the risk caused by world inflation and 90 percent of the negative effect of this inflation on the economies, and indeed the standard of living of Third World countries not producing oil.

OPEC members have invested a great proportion of their revenues, through the OPEC Fund, in the assistance of the developing countries of the Third World and in solving their financial and economic difficulties.

This policy has provoked the resentment of the world's major economic powers, which decided among themselves to make the developing countries of the Third World an eternal market for their trade and for the benefit of their economies. The major economic powers sought to keep the Third World countries as a mere consumer economy market without the right to develop their economies into production economies that grow and flourish.

Thus, in recent years OPEC has been the target of overt and covert wars in which all the types of weapons possessed by the world's major economic powers were used -- powers that want to get rid of OPEC and of its great role in serving the Third World's economic causes and in participating with the peoples of the world in their efforts to achieve their legitimate aspirations. These aspirations are to build national economies that will give Third World countries the ability to grow, develop, and become prosperous without depending on the conditional aid given by the economic powers -- aid that is totally inadequate.

OPEC has stood fast throughout all this time, thanks to the elements that charted their policies with wisdom, patience, and farsightedness in facing their battles with their adversaries. Foremost among these elements in Saudi Arabia, which has sacrificed a great deal of its own interests in order to save OPEC's unity and maintain the cohesion of OPEC members.

Saudi Arabia was able to accomplish this great achievement, thanks to the relative harmony among OPEC members and their awareness of the dangers that threaten OPEC countries as a whole. However, the recent behavior of some OPEC members has resulted in bringing about what the external powers have failed to achieve, a result that led to the failure to reach agreement during the advisory conference that ended in Geneva the day before yesterday.

A strong and cohesive OPEC whose members are in agreement on all that concerns their interests requires the adoption of a firm stand toward any attempt that is likely to undermine OPEC's unity and cohesion. This can take place only by pursuing a wise and realistic policy to which all OPEC members adhere.

OPEC 'FAILURE' BLAMED ON GREED, SHORTSIGHTEDNESS

LD252256 Riyadh SPA in English 2035 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 25, SPA -- A Saudi newspaper today blamed greed and shortsightedness for the failure of OPEC's Geneva meeting, and expressed fear that a "deadly price war" could develop as a result.

The Jidda-published English-language newspaper ARAB NEWS in an editorial headed OPEC Failure, said "greed and shortsightedness have triumphed at OPEC's Geneva meeting.

"After a week of optimism and two days of apparent progress toward an accord, OPEC ministers disbanded early Monday, their hopes dashed on the rocks of petty self-interest," it added.

It noted that Saudi Arabia has cut its production in half over the past two years to help maintain OPEC unity, but "not enough fellow producers have followed its example."

The paper quoted UAE Oil Minister Mani's ibn Said al-'Utaybah as saying in describing the outcome of the Geneva meeting "every country will now do what it wants."

ARAB NEWS commented "that could mean a deadly price war from which no one will benefit. Drastically lower prices could wreak havoc with the international banking system, which is based on a steady and predictable influx of oil revenues.

"The budgets and development projects of many oil producing countries may suffer, and aid to indebted Third World countries may also be cut back," it said.

"In short, the free-for-all to come is full of potential dangers that may well bommerang against those that made harmony and agreement at Geneva impossible. They let short-term political, economic, and even military interests blind them from seeing the chasm they may now fall into," it concluded.

'ARAFAT MEETING WITH ISRAELIS 'AN ADVANCE'

LD251454 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Jasir 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir commentary]

[Text] Observers consider that the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, (?with members of) the so-called Israeli peace committee [words indistinct] (?is one) example of the practical policy the liberation organization has begun to pursue [words indistinct]. The organization, through its struggle and political experience, has begun to be [word indistinct] with events, and in its search for peace has begun to advance from a practical starting point that responds to current political requirements, in the interests of solving the Palestinian question. More than at any other time world public opinion is today, after the invasion of Lebanon and the massacres of Sabra and Shatila, conditioned in favor of solving the Middle East issue.

In this suitable political atmosphere the Palestinian leadership is trying to gain time and also, together with gaining international support, is trying to [words indistinct] within Israel itself, stemming from its beliefs about the important role that elements calling for peace within Israel -- which have apparently benefited greatly from the epxerience of the Lebanon invasion -- could play in influencing the Zionist psychological (?complex). This has actually happened. Many demonstrations were held following the Lebanon invasion, in which large numbers of Zionists took part after they felt the results of the war and their losses, which have touched many Zionist families. Even the soldiers themselves were touched by the results of the war, which led many of them to mutiny against their commands in Lebanon and to refuse to continue the war. For this reason 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli personalities -- a call and effort for peace from within occupied Palestine and through world Jewish organizations -- is considered a daring step and an added credit to the organization in the search for the means for peace.

Commenting on this step at a press conference yesterday in Aden, 'Arafat said that his meeting with members of the Israeli-Palestinian peace committee is in accordance with the PNC's decision concerning approving dialogue with democratic Israeli forces. He also disclosed that he had met with a delegation from the RAKAH party [Israeli communist party] in Moscow and also with Uri Avneri, the Israeli journalist known for his peace-loving inclinations, in Beirut. 'Arafat added that he is currently discussing extending an invitation to the members of the Israeli peace committee to attend the meetings to be held in Algiers on 14 February.

Through these daring initiatives the PLO thus confirms that it has greatly benefited from its political experiences and that it has today become more qualified than at any other time to solve the Palestinian question. After polarizing world public opinion in its favor, it began to create feelings of understanding toward it inside the Zionist entity itself, thus breaking the barrier of rigidity that has lasted so long. This time it is moving forward from reality, reacting to events and at the same time not relinquishing its basic principles and legitimate rights.

UAE

AL-'UTAYBAH COMMENTS ON GENEVA OPEC SESSION

GF251728 Doha QNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jan (WAKH) -- Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, has affirmed that OPEC has not failed, although the organization's consultative meeting, which concluded its meetings in Geneva yesterday, did not reach any agreement on the issues it discussed.

In a statement on his return to Abu Dhabi from Geneva yesterday, he said: The UAE will consider prices and production to serve its interest and the interests of its people within coordination with the OPEC members, particularly the GCC countries and those countries which adopt moderate stands and share our views within OPEC.

Dr al-'Utaybah said the Gulf countries will hold consultations during the next few days to adopt a coordinated stand on the oil market regarding prices and production. He said the UAE's oil production will be 1.6 million barrels per day.

Al-'Utaybah said the UAE has repeatedly warned that OPEC is passing through a decisive stage and that the issues which the consultative meeting will discuss may not have the chance to succeed, and this is exactly what happened.

PRESS WARNS OF CONSEQUENCES OF OPEC DISUNITY

GF251352 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0616 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 25 Jan (WAM) -- Today's UAE newspapers warned against the results of the failure of the OPEC consultative meeting that ended abruptly in Geneva yesterday without reaching a decision on oil prices, production, or allocation of quotas among the OPEC member-countries. In that regard the newspapers cautioned that the failure or collapse of OPEC is not in the interest of any member-country, especially because all of the OPEC members belong to the developing countries, which are facing a ferocious war waged by the big industrialized countries.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD focused on the warning which was made yesterday by the UAE via UAE Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, who said that OPEC is experiencing a critical phase and that the UAE will reconsider the issue of prices and production in a manner commensurate with its interests and the interests of its people. The newspaper says this warning takes importance and significance at this point of time in particular because it was made right after the results of the OPEC consultative conference in Geneva yesterday.

The newspaper continued to affirm that no OPEC member can undermine the OPEC unity or existence because this would be "playing with fire, which burns those who play with it before it reaches other parties, and no one would be able to bear the responsibility of entering a price war or dumping the unwanted surplus on the international market due to recession in demand."

The Dubayy newspaper AL-BAYAN called for holding an urgent OPEC summit conference, affirming that there is no other way to rectify the deterioration in OPEC's situation, which followed a series of attempts by OPEC oil ministers over the past 2 years that ended in failure. The newspaper also called upon the Gulf oil countries to study the situation thoroughly among themselves and to call for holding such a conference.

Finally, the newspaper drew attention to the role of the industrialized countries in failing OPEC and snatching the initiative from it. It said these countries have been working through the conferences they held regularly to reduce OPEC's role, cut down oil imports by 7 percent a year, and increase reliance upon other energy resources. The newspaper said these countries would not have succeeded had it not been for the huge surpluses that poured from OPEC to the international market at random.

The newspaper AL-WAHDAD said the failure of the OPEC meeting in Geneva means that everyone has lost, in addition to a number of developing countries which will certainly be harmed as a result of recession in the oil market and the low income of a number of countries which allocate a high rate of their oil revenues to aid for these countries. The newspaper pointed out that the only winners are the consuming countries and the superpowers, which are working to crush OPEC by hook or by crook.

The newspaper explained that the political conflicts inside OPEC stand behind sabotaging the oil market and that the political conflict has bred economic conflict and feverish competition in the market -- a fact that led to dumping surplus production on the market and consequently reducing prices and making small producers and countries that rely on petroleum in development plans pay a high price for that conflict. The newspaper saw the Iraqi-Iranian war as one of the most important reasons for this conflict, while the dismemberment of the Arabs is another reason, due to the leverage which the Arab oil-producing countries enjoy inside OPEC.

The Ash-Shariqah newspaper AL-KHALIJ called upon OPEC to stand firm before plots being hatched by powers desiring its failure. It said: "The undisputable fact of the matter is that the Western capitalist countries are waging an economic war against the oil-producing countries within their international economic war against the Third World in order to keep that group underdeveloped as consuming markets and sources of raw material, whether that material is cotton, rubber, or oil. The newspaper affirmed that self-defense in that war against a common enemy whose ranks are consolidated is the minimum that should make the oil countries rally around one thing regardless of their dogmatic trends.

At the same time, the newspaper criticized OPEC as an organization from the Third World that did not back up the issues of the peoples to which it belonged. It said: "The Third World peoples will not be sorry for the collapse of OPEC if it does collapse because what the OPEC countries individually and collectively offer the developing countries, such as financing loans, are taken back many times greater by the OPEC countries in terms of debt services, high interest rates, and oil prices."

PDRY

SOVIET SOLIDARITY DELEGATION PAYS VISIT TO ADEN

Arrival Statement

GF220900 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] The delegation of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With the Asian and African Peoples arrived in Aden yesterday. The delegation is led by Comrade Dzasokhov, the first deputy chairman of the committee. Upon arrival at Aden International Airport, Dzasokhov was received by Brother 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister, chairman of the state information committee, and chairman of the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity.

In a press statement to ANA Comrade Dzasokhov noted that his visit to the PDRY comes in response to an invitation he had received from the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity in order to discuss the forms and horizons of cooperation between the Soviet solidarity committee and the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity in 1983. He added that among the issues that will be discussed is the confrontation of the military expansionism of U.S. imperialism. He noted that he looks forward to learning the experience of his PDRY comrades because this country is regarded one of the basic struggling fronts in the anti-imperialism, anti-Zionism, and anti-reactionary movements.

He pointed out that the Soviet comrades highly appreciate the role played by the PDRY in the struggle of the Arab peoples to achieve peace and in the rejection of Israeli settlement expansionism. He expressed pleasure at visiting our country, where this visit coincides with the meeting of the Arab committees of solidarity and peace in Aden. He indicated that he welcomes the opportunity of this visit to get acquainted with the great successes of the PDRY people in the economic, cultural, and political fields.

He also noted that he is pleased and proud because he met with a number of the PDRY delegations in Moscow -- during their participation in the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the USSR -- foremost of whom was the party and high-ranking government delegation led by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, whose speech had profound repercussions on the Soviet people. This speech reflected the comradeship and firm relations that link the two peoples and the two countries.

Delegations Hold Talks

GF231936 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] The first session of talks between the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity and the Soviet solidarity committee began today, headed by Brother 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister, chairman of the state information committee, and chairman of the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity, and Comrade Dzasokhov, deputy chairman of the Soviet solidarity committee.

The talks dealt with Arab and international political developments, the responsibilities of the solidarity movements, and bilateral relations.

During the talks, the Soviet delegation expressed its satisfaction with the PDRY's policy and role, which aims at bolstering friendship and cooperation among people, detente, and international peace, particularly the PDRY's stand in supporting the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people's right to return and for self-determination.

Meeting With YSP Secretary

GF240843 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, received at his office today Comrade Dzasokhov, deputy chairman of the Soviet solidarity committee, who is currently visiting our country. During the meeting, friendship and cooperation relations between the friendly Yemeni and Soviet peoples were discussed.

Comrade Dzasokhov expressed his appreciation for the PDRY's policy which is aimed at strengthening friendship and cooperation relations among peoples and at sustaining international detente and peace, and the PDRY's active role in strengthening the anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist Arab solidarity policy and in persistenly endeavoring to strengthen the unity of progressive Arab ranks.

On his party, Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir praised the role of the Soviet solidarity committee and the Soviet people and their consistent support for our Yemeni people and the Arab peoples and the principled and firm stand of the friendly Soviet Union on sustaining peace and detente and supporting peoples struggling against racism, fascism, and dictatorship.

Meeting With Chairman

GF241800 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received in his office this morning Comrade Dzasokhov, first deputy chairman of the Soviet solidarity committee, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the brother secretary general was acquainted with the development of cooperation and coordination between the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council and the Soviet solidarity committee in various bilateral and international fields.

The brother secretary general expressed satisfaction over these relations, which feed into the consolidation of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the PDRY in embodiment of the common principles and goals for which the Yemeni and Soviet peoples are fighting against imperialism to enhance world peace and stability and support people's just causes.

The meeting was attended by 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Ba Dhib, member of the Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the state information committee, and chairman of the Yemeni Peace and Solidarity Council.

Talks End

GF251235 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Talks between the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity and the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Peoples ended this morning. After that, an agreement of joint cooperation between the two bodies for the period 1983-1985 was signed.

PALESTINIAN COMMUNIST GROUP ARRIVES IN ADEN

GF241938 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] A Palestinian Communist Party delegation led by Brother Sulayman Najab, member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Communist Party and official in charge of the party's command abroad, arrived in Aden this evening on a visit to the PDRY that will last for several days at the invitation from the YSP Central Committee's Secretariat.

In a statement to ANA, the leader of the delegation said he will participate in the celebrations of the 18th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. He said he will also hold talks with officials on relations between the YSP and the Palestinian Communist Party, on the struggle in the Arab arena and the Palestinian people's struggle, and on confrontation of the imperialist plots and intrigues the PDRY is being subjected to.

The delegation was received at the airport by Brother Mahmud an-Najashi, member and deputy secretary of the Central Committee.

YAR

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PDRY CHAIRMAN

GF231608 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office at 1200 today Colonel Muhammad 'Abdullah al-Batani, interior minister in the southern part of the homeland, who arrived in San'a' this morning. During the meeting [the PDRY interior minister] delivered to the brother leader president a written message from his brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers. SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message deals with consultation and coordination between the two Yemens.

The meeting was attended by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, and Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali 'Uthrub, minister of interior and member of the Standing Committee.

MUBARAK LEAVES FOR UNITED STATES 26 JANUARY

NC260713 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his delegation left Cairo for the United States at 0830 today. He was seen off by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, ministers, and the ambassadors of Canada, France, and Britain.

President Mubarak's talks with U.S. officials will deal with the Middle East issue, the situation in Lebanon, and the Palestinian issue. They will also deal with the international situation and Egyptian-U.S. relations, especially in the economic sphere.

AL-AHRAM Views Mubarak's Visit

PM251553 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 Jan 83 pp 1, 3

[Chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "We, the United States, Israel, and the Problem"]

[Text] With the approach of President Husni Mubarak's visit to Washington within his new tour of France, Britain, Canada, and the United States, the question being asked now is: What direction will the efforts to solve the Middle East and Palestinian problems take in the coming stage, with the approach of U.S. election year and after all the dramatic developments and changes that have occurred on the ground on both the Arab and Israeli sides?

In view of the effect of the time factor which Israel is using "with impunity" in order to create new facts in the occupied territories through the building of settlements, the Arab sides and the U.S. side are now called upon to make positive moves to counter the effect of this serious factor on the problem, with the responsibility of each side in doing so varying.

The Arab sides are called upon more than ever before to adopt an Arab stand in order to reach a solution to the problem and end the Israeli occupation of Arab lands occupied since 1967.

In view of the time factor, the race for time in building settlements, and the likelihood that the U.S. Administration will be preoccupied with the election rather than making efforts for a solution, the Arab sides are required to use all means of political and economic pressure available to them in influencing the friendly big powers which hold the cards in the game. They are also required to devote all their efforts to using such means and their vast and tremendous resources in bringing about a just solution, not through threatening the world or its economy with destruction but only through action that achieves the Arab nation's national interest, action that is proportionate to the volume of foreign interests in the Arab world.

It is indeed strange that an Arab nation should possess all these resources and yet be unable to use them ideally in achieving their interests.

Recent reports revealed that Arab investments in the United States alone have reached $207 billion, of which Saudi Arabia has $150 billion, most of it utilized in backing U.S. Treasury bonds.

The reports also revealed that Saudi Arabia contributed $6 billion to increasing IMF resources or, in other words, to preventing the collapse of the banking system mainly in the United States and in West Europe and Japan.

How can the Arab nation have all this capability to back the U.S. Treasury and the Western banking system and prevent its collapse and yet be unable to make U.S. and European public opinion aware of its importance to its long-term strategic interests and convince it of the need to ensure and preserve the security of the Arab countries and the Arab area, which are of such vital importance to the Western world?

The Palestinian side is called upon now more than ever to see that the PLO takes the problem of its own people into its own hands by reaching a unified decision unaffected by disagreements and rifts, to sit down at the negotiating table in order to accept steps toward a positive solution and reject proposed solutions that do not secure the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. This must be done regardless of whether the aim is achieved through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or whether or not a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation is established before or after an independent Palestinian state is established. All Palestinian forces -- and not Fatah alone -- have judged those who keep silent in times of difficulty, so there is no need to fall once again into the grave mistake which is being talked about in Libya and elsewhere.

The U.S. side is called upon now more than ever to use all its capabilities and resources to give momentum to efforts to reach a comprehensive and just solution and to bring firm pressure to bear on Israel in order to stop its plans for demographic changes through building settlements, imposing a status quo, and hindering peace efforts.

U.S. strategy in the Middle East is basically aimed at keeping the Soviet threat away from the area, to which it is linked by vital interests. It is also aimed at trying to establish a U.S. presence in various forms in order to ensure the safety of maritime passages to the oil in the Gulf and to the natural gas deposits for which the West has an increasing need and of which, it recently transpired, Qatar has the world's largest reserve. This strategy also aims at guaranteeing other Western interests in the area which are represented in the implementation of massive projects, the marketing of industrial products in the Arab area, and attracting and absorbing Arab capital.

As for the Israeli strategy, it is obvious that its aim is to obtain sophisticated U.S. weapons to use in lengthening its arm so as to impose Israeli hegemony and threaten the security and stability of the countries of the area, especially the oil countries. This objective in practice is contrary to the U.S. strategy objective of keeping the Soviet threat away from the area and preserving its interests there. The continued Israeli threat to the Arab countries' security and stability, particularly the oil countries, means that these countries could fall into the grip of the Soviet threat and jeopardizes the continuation and growth of U.S. and Western interests there.

This is true unless the two strategies differ on the short-term objectives and agree on the major objective [as published], which is the continuation of the Israeli threat and military escalation in the area, both of which push the Arab countries further toward seeking U.S. protection from the Israeli danger as well as the Soviet threat.

Observers see this likelihood in view of the Soviet Union's inaction and failure to make an effective move during the invasion of Lebanon and the massacre of the Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila, which makes the United States their only choice, but on U.S. terms and under Israeli military superiority.

Another thing that confirms this view is that there is now actually what can be described as shrinkage of Soviet influence or Soviet presence in the area because of the collapse of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which was let down by the Soviets when they failed to intervene seriously to rescue the Palestinians from the massacres in Lebanon and because of the continued Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the serious harm this has done to the Soviets in the area.

What confirms this view is also the fact that, at a time when Israel is continuing its settlement policy by exploiting the time factor, the U.S. retreat continues and the U.S. failure to force Israel to comply with the U.S. demands to freeze settlements also continues, despite the means of pressure which the United States can use against Israel, bearing in mind that it provides Israel with the latest weapons in its arsenal. It was the United States that applied the U.S. law that provides for suspending arms deliveries to any country if that country uses such weapons for aggression against the territory of another country. This law was applied when Turkey used U.S. arms to invade Cyprus, and the United States is now refusing to send large shipments of arms to Somalia so that it will not be tempted to attack Ethiopia.

Despite all this, the United States is not applying these laws against Israel, which is using U.S. arms to continue its occupation of Arab lands and whose military superiority tempts it to attack its neighbors. The United States is well aware how the settlements are being financed; it is aware that the financing comes from the United States in the form of tax-exempt Jewish donations to Israel.

Therefore, it is evident from all this that the United States has much leverage that it can use with Israel. Yet it is using very little of it in bringing pressure to bear on Israel.

So how will the situation develop if Reagan's initiative is not put into effect while the intensive settlement activity in the Arab lands continues?

There is no doubt that these major questions will be at the top of the agenda of discussions between President Mubarak and President Reagan during the coming important visit to Washington, which is taking place at an extremely significant juncture with regard to the future of the Arab cause.

President Mubarak believes in the need to resume the peace efforts and discussions at the earliest possible opportunity and in giving every possible impetus to these efforts, because postponing a resolution of the problem will have dire consequences on the security and stability of the peoples of the area and their efforts to raise their standard of living.

President Mubarak believes that peace efforts should begin by using the positive aspects of Reagan's initiative and trying to develop them, particularly since all the Arab parties now believe in the need for peace. This progress on the Arab side should be met by progress on the Israeli side through seeking to achieve peace and refraining from hindering peace efforts in view of the fact that security is not solely an Israeli problem but an Arab problem as well.

President Mubarak believes in the need for the United States to recognize the PLO. During his first meeting with Reagan in February, he called for such recognition and for the need for dialogue with the PLO, particularly following the recent important developments in the PLO's stance in not rejecting Reagan's initiative and accepting the Fes resolutions, and also following the collapse of most of the justifications for the U.S. stand of not recognizing the PLO unless it recognizes Israel. Henry Kissinger, the originator of this U.S. commitment, is now interpreting it as not meaning no contact with the PLO, since contact does not mean recognition.

President Mubarak believes in the need for a stronger and more decisive U.S. stand translated into a clear U.S. policy to force Israel to freeze settlements because the continuation of this activity creates not only a geographical problem but also a political problem that prevents agreement and therefore prevents achieving the objective of peace.

It is certain, in light of many factors, that the Egyptian submission of this view to the U.S. Administration will take place in better conditions and with greater understanding on the U.S. side.

Why?

Because during the last visit several quarters inside and outside the United States tried to influence Egyptian-U.S. relations in accordance with their old policy of resisting and fighting against the establishment of any special relations between Egypt and the United States. This goes back to Egypt's attempt to buy U.S. arms in 1955, to the infamous Lavon scandal, whose aim was to influence Egyptian-U.S. relations during 'Abd an-Nasir's era, and to the continuing attempts to undermine and influence these relations during President as-Sadat's era when these quarters exploited certain signs in order to cast doubt on Egypt's political and economic trends, such as Egypt's revival of its role as member and founder of the Nonaligned Movement and the return of some Soviet experts to Egypt in order to operate some factories.

These attempts seemed very strange in Egypt's view since, even if the ambassadors of both countries returned to Cairo and Moscow, this would not affect Egypt's distinguished relations with the United States.

Should this step be taken, it will be part of Egypt's desire to maintain normal relations between itself and any other country. Also, Egypt has proved that it does not allow its relations with any state to be a constraint on its political will. It sent back to the Soviet Union 17,000 advisers and abrogated the Egyptian-Soviet treaty when it appeared to it that this had become a constraint on that will.

President Mubarak's experiment in the last year has been a great success in confirming that Egypt is in control of its will, that its policy is clear, stable, and constant, and that it is not subject to unstudied changes. Consequently, it has thwarted all attempts to cast doubt on Egypt's stand and its policy.

Also, Egypt will certainly submit to the U.S. Administration the view regarding the need for speeding up the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon at the earliest moment. There should be no procrastination over solving the Lebanese or the Palestinian problem on the pretext of awaiting progress on one or other problem. Rather, the logical thing is to speed the ending of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. As soon as steps are taken toward implementing such a solution, the road to negotiations on the Palestinian problem will be opened. Egypt will also emphasize the need to protect the Palestinian people against massacres so that the Sabra and Shatila tragedies will not recur and the need for the U.S. stand to go beyond issuing statements of condemnation and protest against such massacres.

Naturally the Egyptian-U.S. dialogue during the coming summit meeting will, in addition to issues of destiny, concentrate on questions of economic cooperation between Egypt and the United States. The inclusion of the ministers of planning, economy, and investments in President Mubarak's delegation reflects its economic importance to Egypt.

It is natural also that Egyptian economic priorities should top the agenda of discussions on bilateral relations, particularly with regard to development priorities, flexibility in using U.S. loans in solving basic economic problems, and industrial and agricultural development. Discussions will also deal with the question of increasing the flow of U.S. capital to Egypt -- capital which does not yet exceed 5 percent of total foreign investments in Egypt.

It is certain that the talks will also center on continuing economic aid to Egypt and on ensuring that it tends to increase rather than decrease.

The talks will necessarily deal with the question of military aid to Egypt and its continuation. In fact, Egypt will certainly ask for this aid to be increased in the next budget to around $1.75 billion in order to meet the requirements of the Egyptian armament plan -- a plan that Egypt believes to be reasonable rather than ambitious. It is also a plan that ensures adequate strength to confront any threats to Egypt's security and stability or to the security and stability of the area. It is also natural to ask for an increase because the cost of U.S. arms is increasing year after year. In other words, the increase Egypt is asking for does not mean an increase in armament. The increase primarily means implementing the Egyptian plan. It is also natural that Egypt should ask for 50 percent of the U.S. military aid to be an outright grant, so that Egypt will be treated on equal terms with U.S. friends and in order to alleviate the burden of armament on the Egyptian budget, which the Egyptian people need for the development of their resources and to raise their standard of living.

Naturally, what President Mubarak will discuss in the United States will also be discussed in Britain and France with regard to giving momentum to efforts to solve the Middle East and Palestinian problems and to questions of bilateral relations, efforts to solve Egypt's economic problem, and the achievment of development and construction in Egypt.

MUBARAK CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR INTERVIEW

NC242114 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] New York, 24 Jan (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has emphasized that should the United States fail to end the presence of the foreign forces in Lebanon immediately, then the matter will be nothing but a "disaster" for the Middle East and a "black point" for the U.S. position in the area.

In an interview with the U.S. newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, President Mubarak elucidated that time is of essence for a settlement of the Lebanese issue and for achieving autonomy for the Palestinians.

The president pointed to the existence of Israeli designs in southern Lebanon, and criticized the Syrian stance, which is provoking Israeli presence there.

In his interview with CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, President Mubarak made it clear that Egypt adheres to peace with Israel and that, at the same time, it desires to establish stronger ties with the Arab world.

President Mubarak added that formation of a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to negotiate with Israel about the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip would enable Washington to put pressure on Israel to freeze the construction of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

The following is the text of President Mubarak's interview, which was conducted by John Yemma and Olfat El Tohamat of the U.S. newspaper CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR:

Question: Do you consider that a U.S. success in bringing about a quick withdrawal -- to a certain extent -- of the foreign forces from Lebanon would be a sign that the United States can achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and autonomy for the Palestinians?

Answer: It would be a good step if they could achieve this. If the United States is unable to resolve such a problem, then this will be a point held against it. It would be a black mark. The reason is that the United States has other friends in the area, not just Israel. If the Americans do not succeed in solving the Lebanese problem, I believe that the situation will be extremely grave.

Question: Do you believe Syria is complicating matters in Lebanon?

Answer: The Israeli press recently mentioned that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met with Jewish leaders in the United States and told them that there is a "gentleman's agreement" between Israel and Syria to remain in Lebanon and that Lebanon will be partitioned the way it is now.

Answer: I cannot imagine how -- when the invasion of Lebanon began -- that the Israeli forces were able to achieve the gains they did before the Syrians began fighting. A big question mark looms over the situation in Lebanon.

Question: Egypt holds that it is imperative for the PLO to recognize Israel so that progress can be made in the peace process in light of the plan announced by President Reagan on 1 September. However, the PLO is still unable to take such a decisive step as looking for other Palestinian representatives from the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a substitute for the PLO in the peace process.

Answer: In accordance with the Rabat summit conference resolutions, the PLO is the Palestinians' sole representative. Therefore, we cannot say that there is any other representative. However, when we say it is imperative that the PLO recognize Israel's right to exist, then we mean that the only card that it holds in this card, and that it is incumbent on the Palestinians not to keep this card in their pocket until the time passes and it becomes useless. When you hold such a card, it is imperative that you play it at the opportune time so that you can derive maximum benefit.

Question: Is the present time opportune?

Answer: I hold the view -- and I believe -- that the United States will never initiate a dialogue with the Palestinians so long as the PLO does not recognize Israel. Should the Palestinians reocgnize Israel, however, I believe that the United States will start -- as it has promised -- a dialogue with the Palestinians aimed at resolving this issue.

Question: Should the PLO continue to fail to take such a step, do you believe that Jordan should await the PLO's approval before participating in the negotiations with Israel?

Answer: According to my understanding, the negotiations will not start if there is no coordination between the Palestinians and King Husayn. The sooner the Palestinians start such coordination, the better it will be for their future. We urge King Husayn and the Palestinians to conclude their negotiations so that negotiations can start with Israel, because time flies.

Question: Do you regard PLO representation in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as fundamental?

Answer: I leave it to King Husayn and the Palestinians to decide on the practical solution they desire -- whether there should be some Palestinians from the PLO or elsewhere or to coordinate with each other so as to emerge with a delegation that can sit at the table and start negotiations.

Question: Is the United States currently exerting sufficient pressure to make Israel suspend the building of settlements in the West Bank?

Answer: I have heard that there is a promise that in the event the Jordanians and the Palestinians agree on the formation of a joint delegation, the United States will support the suspension of settlements. I hope this is true.

Question: What do you think the other Arab states should do to prove that they truly desire to reestablish relations with Egypt, as many of them wish to do?

Answer: I leave this matter to them. I would like to inform you that Egypt is an Arab state and that Egypt's doors are open to every Arab state to come at any time it wishes. However, I do not want to put any Arab state in an embarrassing position in the Arab world. When I hold contacts with any Arab state, I do not ask for diplomatic relations. Such relations are regarded as a final phase. In any case, contacts exist among us and, for this reason, the lack of diplomatic relations does not worry me.

Question: Since you became president of Egypt, talk about military cooperation between Egypt and the United States has decreased very much, and the Bright Star maneuvers in 1982 were canceled. I ask Your Excellency if Egypt is still committed to the facilities at Ras Banas base which the late President Anwar as-Sadat offered to the United States?

Answer: We are committed to these facilities, to which President as-Sadat referred in a letter he sent to the U.S. Administration. However, there is a difference between facilities and permanent bases in Egypt. We will not under any circumstances accept the granting of bases in Egypt to any state. Yes, for facilities when a danger exists in any Arab or Islamic state and such a state must itself ask for help. We say that there will be facilities when there is an emergency need in these states, but so long as there is no danger and no request from these states, we will not grant facilities.

Question: The state of emergency was recently reinstituted. Can this be taken as a sign of the continuing existence of the antigovernment fundamentalist groups that assassinated your predecessor, or do you believe that the tide of Islamic extremism has ebbed?

Answer: This is a trend that prevails in the whole world, not only in Egypt. However, concerning martial law, not a single clause of it has been implemented to this time, since it was endorsed by the People's Assembly. The people who were detained in connection with this case, which is now before the court -- some 300 Muslim extremists are being tried on the charge of trying to overthrow the government -- were not arrested under the martial law provisions, but under the provisions of the ordinary law.

Question: If martial law is not being used, then why do you keep it in force?

Answer: We must keep it in force for unforeseen events, because this law gives you more flexibility. We are in full control of the extremists and diehards here -- and you have asked this question before.

The problem is that foreigners sometimes read newspapers in London or the United States and form an extremely exaggerated opinion of the events that take place -- and this runs counter to the truth. There are Muslim extremists in Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the Gulf, Damascus, Lebanon, the United States, France, Italy, and in the Far East.

Question: In Egypt they tried to stage a coup d'etat by assassinating President as-Sadat. Do you believe they are now less dangerous, forcing them to refrain from trying to do the same thing again?

Answer: Whenever they can arrange things so they can become effective, they will, naturally, be very enthusiastic. Nevertheless, even the ordinary laws can handle this matter, and we are in full control of the situation.

Question: Do you expect another group of detainees to be released soon, and are you planning to permit organizations such as the Muslim Brotherhood to participate in the political system once again?

Answer: No. Let us leave this matter to the future so we can see what happens. Furthermore, I cannot make predictions. You can read the history of these persons -- even before the revolution -- and you will have your answer to this question. Concerning our democracy in Egypt, when I think that in Egypt we should enjoy the same democracy and freedoms that are enjoyed in the United States, I believe that there must exist the same bases and the same circumstances. The United States has an agricultural and industrial basis and illiteracy is extremely low. In Egypt illiteracy is about 70 percent. Can you allow large-scale freedom in a state in which 70 percent suffer from illiteracy? Can the granting of such freedom be counseled? Furthermore, there must be a long-term plan to fulfill this objective. When we have a large number of educated people, then there will be a basis for democracy in this country. At this time, however, anyone can say anything and the people will believe him. Furthermore, this might be dangerous, but the people will not sense the danger until it assumes devastating proportions.

GHALI URGES TOUGHER U.S. STAND TOWARD ISRAEL

NC252205 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Washington, 25 Jan (MENA) -- Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that Egypt will not resume the peace talks unless their scope is expanded with the participation of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. He said that the U.S. Administration understands the Egyptian viewpoint as well as Egypt's stand on the subject of the Egyptian ambassador's return to Tel Aviv.

In a statement to MENA hours before President Husni Mubarak is due to arrive in the U.S. capital, Dr Ghali said that Egypt's stand is still the same and has not changed. He said that the Egyptian ambassador's return to Israel depends on a change in the prevailing atmosphere in the area by the announcement of a timetable for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. Dr Ghali added that the efforts of Egyptian diplomacy at international conferences are based on breaking the factors of (?inactivity), because we believe that if the peace efforts are not resumed by the middle of this year, it will be difficult to resume them before the middle of (?1985), because everyone will be engaged in the U.S. presidential elections campaign which starts on 4 September next year.

Dr Ghali said that during President Husni Mubarak's visit to Wahsington, which starts tomorrow, the president will urge the U.S. Administration to adopt a more resolute stand on the subject of Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He will also urge it to move quickly.

Dr Ghali pointed out that Egypt is playing a leading role in the area and that it must be supported so that it will work and play an effective role.

The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs called on the Arab sides, particularly the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, to expedite the formation of a delegation to participate in the talks, so as not to give Begin's government the opportunity to consecrate a fait accompli in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by building more settlements.

Dr Butrus Ghali warned that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin is also playing for time and wishes to procrastinate so as to delay the (?issue) until after the middle of (?1985). He empahsized that the important thing is that the U.S. stand should be more firm toward Begin's attempts.

IRAQI PAPER INTERVIEWS EGYPT'S HASAN 'ALI

JN231002 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, has said that the coming visit of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to the United States is of great importance at this stage.

In a statement to ATH-THAWRAH, published here today, the Egyptian minister declared that the Egyptian delegation will outline specific Egyptian concepts on the Iraqi-Iranian war and the ability of the United States to stop this war as well as the Reagan initiative and the extent to which one can proceed with this initiative to achieve peace in the Middle East.

He added: The Fes summit resolutions and the possibility of implementing them alongside the Reagan initiative, the need for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, relations between Cairo and Washington and U.S. military and economic aid to Egypt will also be discussed by the Egyptian delegation.

The Egyptian official has called on the United States to play a more decisive role during the coming stage so that the Arab countries will not come to doubt the U.S. ability in pursuing the peace process in the Middle East which would contribute to foiling the initiatives that are under discussion.

ARAB LEAGUE ASKED TO TAKE ANTI-SYRIA, -LIBYA STEPS

JN251713 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Tunis, 25 Jan (INA) -- Iraq has officially asked the Arab League secretary general to take the necessary measures to ensure that the Arab League takes the responsibility of carrying out practical steps against the Syrian and Libyan regimes and of denouncing and condemning their collusion with the Iranian enemy. This came during a meeting held in Tunis today between Nuri Isma'il al-Wa'is, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

In a statement of INA, Al-Wa'is said that he and Klibi discussed the serious results of the recent meeting held in Damascus between the Syrian and Libyan regime on the one hand and the Iranian enemy on the other and the statement issued after the meeting. This statement, Al-Wa'is said, will create a schism in joint Arab action, in addition to flagrantly violating the joint Arab defense pact charter. Al-Wa'is also said: In the name of the Iraqi Government, I asked the Arab League to sholder its responsibilities and take the necessary steps against the Syrian and Libyan regimes, which have allied themselves with a foreign country against an Arab state and a member of the Arab League.

TARIQ 'AZIZ SWORN IN AS FOREIGN MINISTER

JN260856 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] This morning, Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, was sworn in as the foreign minister in front of struggler President Saddam Husayn.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, director of the presidential office.

CPC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD 22 JAN

JN221000 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0910 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jan (INA) -- A CPC delegation headed by Zhang Xiangshan, adviser to the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee, arrived here today on an official visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

Zhang Xiangshan said he is happy to be visiting Iraq and added that he will hold talks with Ba'th Party officials to promote cooperation and friendship between the Chinese and Iraqi people.

Meets With Official

JN231833 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jan (INA) -- Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, director of the Foreign Relations Office in the Ba'th Party National Command, met here today with the CPC delegation led by Zhang Xiangshan, adviser to the International Liaison Department of the CPC Central Committee. Hammudi said that the visit by the friendly Chinese delegation will contribute toward strengthening cooperation and friendship between the two parties and peoples. He reviewed the developments in the war imposed on Iraq by the Iranian regime for the past 2 years and the Iraqi peace initiatives. He welcomed all efforts and good offices to stop the fighting.

Hammudi explained the nature of the Iranian-Zionist alliance and the Syrian and Libyan connivance with the Khomeyniite regime, which has ambitions in Iraqi territory and the Arab Gulf. He also spoke about the current Arab situation in light of the U.S.-supported Zionist onslaught against the Lebanese and Palestinain people and the Arab nation.

During the meeting, the Chinese official conveyed greetings from the CPC Central Committee general secretary and the premier of the PRC State Council to President Saddam Husayn. He expressed his peasure at visiting Iraq and meeting with Iraqi officials. Zhang praised Iraqi efforts to preserve the unity of the Nonaligned Movement, expressing his country's appreciation for Iraq's efforts to stop the fighting with Iran and its welcoming mediation efforts to solve the dispute by peaceful means. He reiterated his country's support for the rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation and denounced the aggressive Zionist practices in Palestine and the Arab region calling for the immediate withdrawal of the Zionist forces from Lebanon. He affirmed his country's support for the establishment of a Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND COMMUNIQUES ON FIGHTING

Communique No 974

JN231715 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Communique No 974 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Raising high the banner of victory, and with strong determination, our triumphant armed forces are continuing their heroic activities against the misled forces of the Iranian regime. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy positions and concentrations with various weapons in front of our positions in the Maysan sector, killing six soldiers, destroying one antiaircraft machinegun, and killing its crew. One of our forward units was also able to capture one enemy soldier in the same sector.

2. One of our combat patrols attacked a group of enemy soldiers in front of our forward units in the area east of Basra, killing five soldiers and wounding others. The rest of the group was forced to flee the battlefield. Our forces also destroyed and set fire to one armored personnel carrier and one 106-mm gun.

3. An enemy concentration was sighted in front of our positions in the central sector of the front. Our forces attacked it with various weapons, killing four and destroying one vehicle and one 155-mm gun.

4. One was killed in the northern sector of the front.

5. The artillery of the spiteful Khomeyniite regime today shelled Mandali and Zurbatiyah, causing some damage to their civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Froces General Command, 23 January 1983

Communique No 975

JN241630 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jan (INA) -- Iraqi units have struck an Iranian enemy concentration in the central sector of the battlefield, killing four and destroying two infantry positions and two observation posts.

This was stated in Communique No 975 issued here this evening. The military communique added that one enemy element sought refuge with a forward Iraqi unit. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 975 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the mericiful, the compassionate. Our valiant Iraqi forces are pursuing their daring activities against the Khomeyniite forces of aggression in the various sectors of the battlefield. The results yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. An enemy concentration was sighted opposite our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our units struck it with various weapons, killing four and destroying two infantry positions and one observation post. An enemy element sought refuge with one of our forward units in the same sector and was transferred to the rear.

2. One observation post was destroyed in the Maysan sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 January 1983

Communique No 976

JN251635 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Jan (INA) -- The Iraqi Armed Forces have killed three soldiers of the Iranian forces of aggression in the central and southern sectors of the front. Communique No 976 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command this evening said that the Iranian artillery today shelled Basra and Mandali, causing damage to civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 976 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the mericiful, the compassionate. The great Iraqi people and their capable armed forces, which are confronting the reactionary Khomeyniite-Zionist aggression against Iraqi sovereignty and the future of the Arab nation, will be able, God willing, to foil the plots of the racist enemy and those who support it, such as the agent regimes in Damascus and Tripoli. The results of the activities at the front for last night and today are as follows:

1. A group of enemy soldiers was seen in front of our forward units in the central sector of the front. Our units attacked it, killing two and wounding others.

2. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

3. The artillery of the spiteful enemy today shelled Basra and Mandali, causing some damage to civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 January 1983

KING HUSAYN, QUEEN NUR LEAVE FOR SPAIN, BELGIUM

JN251227 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur left Amman at midday for a 1-day private visit to Spain, during which His Majesty King Husayn will meet with the Spanish monarch, Juan Carlos. Their Majesties will later leave for Belgium on a 3-day official visit, during which his majesty will hold talks with His Majesty King Baudouin, the prime minister and ranking Belgian officials. The talks will deal with the recent developments in the Middle East and the Arab efforts to realize a just and all-embracing peace in the region. Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath as the regent during his majesty's absence before his majesty the king and the cabinet staff. The chief of the Royal Court and the president of the National Planning Council were also aboard the royal plane. The foreign minister will later join the Jordanian delegation.

'ARAFAT TO VISIT AFTER ADEN CELEBRATIONS

JN260739 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] AR-RA'Y has learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will leave Aden for Amman immediately after the Palestinian revolution anniversary celebrations, scheduled to last until the end of this week. 'Arafat is due to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials.

ATTEMPTS TO SPLIT PALESTINIAN RANKS CRITICIZED

JN232103 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] At a time when the PLO is preparing for the Aden celebrations [on the 19th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution] in order to rally, unify, and crystallize Palestinian public opinion in light of the Palestinian reality after the recent public opinion in light of the Palestinian reality after the recent bitter incidents in Lebanon and the dangerous reality which Israel is trying to impose by force in the occupied territory at this critical time, when the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat are trying to reorganize the Palestinian resistence with all the revolutionary and political support it needs so it can face the challenges of the coming phase at this very time, in which a unified Palestinian stand is mandatory, certain Palestinian voices, which are manipulated by this or that quarter, are heard here and there presenting the Palestine question as though there were a difference in opinion between Palestinian sides, a dispute over small gains, or an internal dispute with the PLO which could be solved by rejecting this or that stand, eliminating this or that side, or appeasing this or that quarter.

These suspicious voices, which carry no weight in the field of Palestinian action and in the decisive confrontation of the Zionist enemy, forget when presenting the Palestine question in this manner that the crucial issue now to the Palestinians and Arabs if the general confrontation against a Zionist expansionist program which seeks to obliterate the features of the Palestine question and to carve up Palestinian territory, a program aimed at uprooting Palestinian existence from Palestinian soil day after day.

If the owners of these voices are not aware of the serious situation faced by our kinfolk in the occupied homeland as a result of the Zionist Judaization and settlement program, or if they are intentionally ignoring this program and its dangers, then this only exposes their utter ignorance which, in such a case, is more dangerous than plotting against the question. If they are fully aware of the dangers of what is happening daily -- dangers which must be faced by all Palestinians and Arabs -- then this means that the attempts to split Palestinian ranks will, in the long term, be in the interests of the Zionist program and those who are serving it.

It is indeed regrettable that the Palestine question is still considered by certain Arab sides to be a means to implement their own local and regional policies despite their alleged concern for pan-Arab interests. We say a means, because when they speak about the Palestine question, it is from the viewpoint of their own local and regional policies, interests, and conflicts. It is obvious that the Judaization and liquidation taking place in the occupied territory against the entire Palestinian existence -- land, heritage, and people -- do not concern the owners of these voices, so long as they are preoccupied with their own empty statements, maneuverings and stands at the expense of the Palestine question and its people and Palestinian existence in the occupied territory.

This tragic situation becomes even uglier when the owners of these voices try to win over other voices in the occupied territory to cheaply echo the interests of their manipulators. This is because their followers in the occupied territory become the victims. No sensible person would want to become an echo for those who tamper with his cause, those who live far away from danger and only consider the Palestine question and the issue of our kinfolk in the occupied homeland to be a means to serve their own interests in facing their own opponents in their own capitals, who are safe from danger. Those who have agreed to become an echo for the voices barking from this or that capital do not know that by doing so they have agreed to become tools in the hands of the implementers of the Zionist program, which is aimed at them more than others, particularly at this time.

SYRIAN-LIBYAN-IRANIAN STATEMENT CRITICIZED

Amman Television

JN242101 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] While Arab efforts are being exerted to patch up the Arab rift as a first step toward restoring Arab solidarity and supporting the Arab position against the dangers that are sweeping the Arab region, we hear reports from Damascus of a tripartite Syrian-Libyan-Iranian joint statement which openly announces the encouragement and support of Syria and Libya for Iran in its aggressive war against fraternal Iraq -- a war of expansionist Iranian ambitions against both Arab Iraq and the Arab Gulf.

The statement not only openly undermines the efforts to tackle the Arab situation, but also, by a comical distortion of facts, calls for including Iran in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front while Iran is stabbing Arabs and the Arab nation with Syrian and Libyan support.

How can the Libyan and Syrian regimes, which issued this statement, speak about steadfastness and confrontation at a time when they are openly and flagrantly announcing their alliance with a non-Arab country which is waging a war against an Arab country, Iraq, and threatening Arab interests in the Arab Gulf region? How can the countries which issued the statement allow themselves to speak about Arab interests at the same time as they are announcing an unholy alliance against the Arabs, represented by the aggression against Iraq and the Arab Gulf?

While the Arab and Islamic worlds and the whole world call for an end to the Iranian aggressive war against Iraq, the Syrian-Libyan-Iranian statement supports the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Arab interests in the name of steadfastness and confrontation. We wonder, steadfastness against whom and confrontation of whom? Will the steadfastness and confrontation about which Syria and Libya brag not become a political joke, particularly when the third party which is being invited to join this alleged steadfastness and confrontation is waging a war against the Arabs and Arab Iraq?

Who will be fooled by this steadfastness and confrontation lie, particularly after the invasion of Lebanon and the defeat of those who claimed steadfastness and confrontation on the side of the Palestinians and Lebanese in Lebanon have witnessed capitulation and gambling with pan-Arab concepts? The heroes of hollow statements may think that they can conceal the sun with a sieve; they will not, however, conceal their alliance with an enemy, Iran, which is waging a war against the Arabs and will not be able to conceal their capitulation to the Israeli enemy during the invasion of Lebanon.

The three regimes which issued the statement, which exposes to condemnation the intentions of these regimes against the Arabs, will not be able to break out of their Arab and international isolation with international controversy, just as they will not be able to end their isolation from their own nations with misleading statements.

We would not be surprised, since the obvious aim of the sides in the Iranian-Syrian-Libyan statement is to strike at any Arab move or cohesion, if Ethiopia joined this unholy alliance, because it too is attacking the Eritrean revolution and waging an expansionist aggression against Somalia just as Iran is doing against Iraq and the Arab Gulf region.

The suspect and exposed statement openly called for an escalation of the conspiracy against the Arab nation after the parties which issued the statement had failed to help the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and after this capitulation had paved the way for Israel to occupy Lebanon and to strike at both the Lebanese and Palestinians.

AD-DUSTUR Editorial

JN251015 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Jan 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] In its editorial headlined "The Exposed Conspiracy," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: At this critical time through which our nation is passing and which calls for solidarity and unified Arab action, a new conspiracy has sprung up against the Arab nation, a conspiracy whose threads were interwoven by Syria and Libya in collaboration with Iran. The dimensions of this dangerous conspiracy were disclosed by the Syrian-Iranian-Libyan statement which was recently issued in Damascus in the name of steadfastness and confrontation and which falsely calls for backing and defending the Palestine question.

If the rulers of Damascus and Libya have allowed themselves to plot through overt collaboration with the Iranian enemy in the name of steadfastness and confrontation, the Arab citizen wonders: Against whom is this steadfastness? The Lebanese war has proved the falsehood of the Damascus and Libyan rulers' claims. The regime, which defeatedly failed to support and back the Palestinians vis-a-vis the Zionist invasion, and agreed with the enemy on the plan of aggression, has no right to talk about steadfastness. It is unreasonable that its lies would ever deceive anyone, especially after it was exposed by the Lebanese war.

AD-DUSTUR says: The Libyan regime, which advised the Palestinians, during their most difficult circumstances, to commit suicide, should stop raising the empty slogans which have been rejected by everyone. Syria and Libya have greatly contributed to undermining Arab solidarity and have rejected all endeavors to remove all differences and purify the Arab atmosphere, a fact that proves that their role in the new conspiracy was premeditated and well planned in collaboration with the Iranian enemy and that their support for Iran against fraternal Iraq and the Gulf's Arabism is an essential part of this conspiracy, which is aimed not only at Iraq but at the entire Arab nation.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The Arab nation is called upon to confront the tripartite conspiracy, which is basically aimed at dividing Arab ranks and overtly siding with the Iranian enemy and blessing its aggression against Iraq, the Gulf, and the Arab world.

AL-JUMAYYIL SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT MUBARAK

NC251540 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has sent Ghassan Tuwayni, the coordinator of withdrawals, and Ambassador Nadim Dimashqiyah to Cairo with a personal letter from him to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the eve of his departure for the United States. The letter comes within the framework of the move President al-Jumayyil is making through contacts with Arab leaders.

It is worth mentioning that President Mubarak will hold talks with President Reagan on the topics pertaining to the Middle East area, particularly the current negotiations between Lebanon and Israel with U.S. participation.

This afternoon, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil discussed with U.S. special envoy Ambassador Morris Draper the latest stage reached in the current consultations on the tripartite negotiations.

Envoys Return

NC260804 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Excerpt] President al-Jumayyil's envoys, negotiations coordinator Ghassan Tuwayni and Ambassador Nadim Dimashqiyah, have returned from Cairo after conveying a personal message from President al-Jumayyil to President Husni Mubarak on the eve of his departure to Washington to meet with President Ronald Reagan tomorrow, Thursday.

Tuwayni and Dimashqiyah briefed the Egyptian president on the current negotiations with Israel and asked him to seek from President Reagan a speedy withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

The Lebanese move toward Egypt comes within the general framework drawn up by the government to benefit from whatever contributes to ending the occupation of Lebanon. The government exploits every opportunity and uses every means for the sake of liberating Lebanon.

AL-JUMAYYIL CONSIDERS IDF PROVOCATIONS OF MARINES

NC251456 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The Israeli provocations of the U.S. Marine forces in areas adjacent to the areas under the control of the Lebanese Army and the multinational force today occupied some of the attention of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. The president today presided over a meeting of the Political Committee of the Higher Liaison Body in the presence of the ambassadors of the states participating in the multinational force, namely, U.S. Ambassador Robert Dillon, French Ambassador Paul Marc Henry, Italian Ambassador Franco Ottieri, and David Roberts. The team of Lebanese and international officers and the coordinator of the multinational force, Colonel Johnny 'Abduh, attended the meeting as well.

Sources of the Political Committee of the Higher Liaison Body in Lebanon consider that the excuses the Israeli army fabricates to penetrate the area of operations of the Lebanese Army and the multinational force, particularly of the U.S. unit, is an indication of the political escalation and differences in stances between Israel and the United States.

VOL REPORTS ISRAELI DEMANDS FOR WITHDRAWAL

NC252052 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] With regard to the failure to reach agreements on the items put forward for discussion, the Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Israeli side is demanding that the Palestinians withdraw and that an agreement be reached with Syria on simultaneous withdrawal and the handing over of the captives held by the Palestinians as well as the bodies of the dead in return for [an Israeli] withdrawal in two phases from the mountain.

The Voice of Lebanon radio reporter says that the Lebanese side insists on its stand and demands a complete withdrawal while negotiations will continue in phases with U.S. agreement.

DISPUTE ON SUBCOMMITTEE VENUE CONTINUES

NC251947 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The subcommittees emanating from the Lebanese-Israeli-American negotiations did not meet today because of Israel's request to move the venue of the meetings from Qiryat Shemona to Herzliyya and Lebanon's opposition to this move. It has been reiterated that the meetings will be moved to Nahariyya.

An Israeli source today said that the question of fixing the venue for the meetings has not been solved yet, but that it is a simple problem which must be solved as soon as possible during the current negotiations. He added: The subcommittees might meet next Thursday in Qiryat Shemona, if they do not meet tomorrow, Wednesday, if agreement is reached on fixing the venue in Israel.

LEBANESE COMMANDER ON RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

NC260730 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] Commander of the Lebanese forces Fadi Afram believes that Lebanon should conclude a peace treaty with Israel in the long run. However, he also believes that if Lebanon were to agree to the normalization of relations with Israel now, the Syrians would not withdraw from Lebanon.

In a statement to REUTERS Afram asserted that Lebanon wants to ensure freedom of political action by establishing an equilibrium between its two neighbors -- Syria and Israel. This is the only way, he said, that Lebanon will not be under the absolute domination of the Syrians. He feared that Washington might reassess its commitment to Lebanon and that if U.S. diplomacy does not produce results soon, the country might disintegrate.

SA'D HADDAD 'READY TO WITHDRAW' IF ASKED

NC231426 Paris AFP in English 1424 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Beirut, Jan 23 (AFP) -- Pro-Israeli Lebanese dissident Major Sa'd Haddad told a press conference in Marj 'Uyun, near the Israeli-Lebanese frontier, that he was "ready to withdraw if it is in the best interests of Lebanon."

"If I am asked to stay, I will stay. If not, I will withdraw because the interests of Lebanon come first," he said to newsmen at the conference, which was reported today in the local press.

Maj Haddad, whose forces in south Lebanon consist of former conservative Christian militiamen and ex-Lebanese Army regulars, declared a strip of land on the Israeli border his enclave in 1979.

He was discharged from the army and summoned before a court-martial.

As part of the security arrangements with Lebanon, Israel has demanded that he should be put in charge of the regular Lebanese forces in south Lebanon.

Maj Haddad said he was satisfied with the progress of Israeli-Lebanese negotiations, but he wanted them to be accelerated.

He believed Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil had shown "intelligence and genius in his management of foreign affairs and in his choice of Shafiq al-Wazzan, who has proved that he understands Lebanon's best interests, as premier."

Maj Haddad considered the 1949 armistice convention, which governs relations between Israel and Lebanon, to be "decaying" and the national treaty of 1943, which shares powers between the different Lebanese communities, to be no longer relevant.

But he added that he was against the country being divided up on religious lines.

He said he was sceptical about the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon and considered the Palestinian presence in central and northern Lebanon to be "unimportant."

SOURCE HOLDS U.S. RESPONSIBLE FOR TALKS FAILURE

NC241415 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] An official Lebanese source today reasserted Lebanon's rejection of the enemy's [Israel's] conditions and affirmed the [Lebanese] state's firm stand to achieve the withdrawal without preconditions. The source explained that Lebanon holds the U.S. Administration responsible for the failure of the negotiations and calls on the Reagan administration to exert serious pressure on Israel to make it abandon its conditions.

The sources said that an expanded meeting will be held at the Republican Palace under President Amin al-Jumayyil this evening. The members of the political operations room and the subcommittees will attend the meeting, during which the situation will be reviewed before fixing the date and venue for the committees' next meeting.

The source pointed out that instructions will be given to the committees to abstain from discussing any item involving Israeli conditions inconsistent with Lebanon's interests, sovereignty, independence, and Arab relations.

The source also pointed out that an atmosphere of great pessimism prevails in the various political circles regarding the possibility of achieving a solution to the crisis soon -- a solution that will contribute to accelerating the withdrawals.

PRESS ON HABIB'S MISSION, NEGOTIATIONS PROGRESS

NC250909 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Press review]

[Excerpts] AN-NAHAR says U.S. envoy Habib has returned home for consultations and to brief President Reagan on the outcone of his mission. In fact, the U.S. envoy's tour has revealed several facts. Habib's problem is not with Lebanon because Lebanon knows that its land is occupied and that the continuation of occupation threatens the integrity of both land and people. Lebanon subsequently refuses to pay any price that will affect its right to exercise full sovereignty over its territory and refuses to agree that southern Lebanon will never again be the arena of an Arab-Israeli war.

AN-NAHAR adds: In fact, Habib's problem is in Israel. He should work to bring the Israeli stand closer to the U.S. views. What is required now is a new decision from President Reagan.

AL-ANWAR makes a comparison between the U.S. and the Israeli negotiators and says: The former believes that a settlement in Lebanon should not hinder a settlement in the Middle East according to Reagan's plan. He acts on the basis that the direct criterion of success or failure will not only reflect upon the small homeland, Lebanon, but will also affect King Husayn's decision on whether or not to join the negotiations on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli negotiator, AL-ANWAR says, wants to delay everything, particularly the withdrawal. He is against any solution in Lebanon that will open the way to King Husayn to join the West Bank negotiations on the basis of the U.S. plan. The Israeli negotiator ultimately wants a settlement in Lebanon that will undermine Reagan's plan, change the Middle East map and create a new situation in the small homeland.

AS-SAFIR affirms that U.S. envoy Philip Habib has been acquainted during the tour with the final limits of the Israeli demands and the Lebanese conditions. AS-SAFIR expects Habib to return to the area by the end of this week after meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan carrying several proposals outlining Washington's stand regarding the progress of the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations.

DEPUTIES ATTACK AL-QADHDHAFI'S ISLAM CALL

NC251136 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Some deputies have replied to the rabid divisionist campaign which Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has been leading.

Deputy August Bakhus has called upon the government to sever its relations with Libya saying: If Al-Qadhdhafi is crazy or strung out, then this is the affair of his own people. It is impermissible that Lebanon should pay the price of his foolishness.

Deputy Fu'ad Ghusn has expressed his regret that this old Byzantine argument should be used by Arab politicians. He stressed that Al-Qadhdhafi's attempt to do away with a heritage of many generations runs counter to the most basic rules of logic and love, which the divine religious advocate.

Deputy Rashid al-Khuri has not been surprised by Al-Qadhdhafi's call because he made a similar call when he visited France. Al-Khuri stressed that the world was convinced that Al-Qadhdhafi is abnormal if not, to repeat what late As-Sadat said, the madman of Libya.

Salim To React

NC251848 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has given special attention to the Libyan leader's recent statements. Foreign Ministry sources have revealed that Minister Salim will adopt a stand on this subject because it is considered a flagrant interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and an incitement to racial sedition.

OFFICIAL SAYS ISRAELI ARMY KILLS 4 IN 10 DAYS

TA260919 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The head of the Lebanese security police has said that over the last 10 days four people were killed in the Beirut suburbs by shots fired by IDF soldiers. According to them, two of those killed were Lebanese and the two others have not yet been identified.

EXPLOSION IN BEIRUT; ISRAELIS RAID BAYSUR

NC260648 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] At 0630 this morning, an explosive device went off in the building of Dr Michel Ayyub in 'Ayn al-Muraysah [in Beirut]. The device was placed in the fifth story where 'Atif Ghadban, an official of the Arab Socialist Union, resides. There were material damages only.

In the mountain, an Israeli force raided the township of Baysur in the district of 'Alayh during a search campaign for Palestinian and leftist gunmen, according to the Israeli radio. There have been reports that foreign gunmen have sneaked from upper Al-Matn and Al-Biqa' accross the Syrian lines into 'Alayh to carry out terrorist activities.

Search Sidon Area

NC260852 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The Israeli raiding operations during the night in Sidon were broad and intensive. They included the city's gardens and neighboring hills and ended only this morning. Helicopters and flares were used in the operations. In the morning, armored patrols were extensively deployed on the northern and southern accesses to Sidon. Searches were carried out between Nahr al-Awwali and Sidon and inside the gardens. The guarding of the headquarters of the military governor in Sidon has been tightened and cars are being prevented from parking within a 500-meter radius.

At about 0900 today, the Israeli forces combed the area extending from [word indistinct] in Al-Hadath up to Ash-Shuwayfat junction.

ISRAELI RESTRICTIONS ON UNIFIL CONTINUE

NC261215 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The UNIFIL has issued a resume about the events and developments in the south. The resume has been released by the UN Information Center in Beirut. It notes that the Israeli restrictions on the UN forces' field and helicopter movements are continuing.

PAPERS COMMENT ON PLOTS AGAINST SYRIA

AL-BA'TH on Reactionary Attempts

JN231258 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA) -- In today's editorial, AL-BA'TH says: For a long time, Syria has been exposed to attempts by the Zionist-imperialist forces and their agents in the region to distort and confuse Syria's image. Recently these attempts escalated alongside the plots that are being concocted against the Arabs' primary cause, that of Palestine. To be more precise, these campaigns of distortion and confusion have come after Syria has rejected the fait accompli which the United States and Israel are trying to impose on the Arab nation.

The paper adds: Recently, and following the U.S.-Zionist onslaught on Syria which carries the threats of aggression under the excuse that Syria's possession of new and modern weapons displeases the U.S. Administration, Arab sides linked to the U.S. scheme started attributing statements to Syria officials to the effect that Syria has decided to retract its stand on the Fes summit resolutions.

The paper continues: This is taking place at a time when all the Arabs, particularly the Arab officials, are well aware that Syria exerted a big effort in the Fes summit out of its concern for halting the deterioration of the general Arab stand.

The paper adds: What draws the attention is that while Syria has been rejecting all the capitulatory stands and is determined to build its intrinsic power so that it can achieve its principal objective of having a strategic balance with the Zionist enemy to regain Arab rights and dignity, we hear from here and there those who say that Syria has no right to interfere in what is taking place, because it concerns the PLO alone.

The paper adds: Although Syria has never and will never interfere in the organizational affairs of the PLO, Syria and all the sincere forces in the Arab world will not allow anyone to relinquish the Palestine question, which is the Arabs' primary issue.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria, which puts all its resources at the disposal of the Palestine question, will work with the sincere Arab forces and the friendly progressive forces for foiling those campaigns of confusion and distortion. Those who believe that the decision will not be that of the progressive and nationalist forces which are struggling for a better future for the coming generation and a brighter one, will be mistaken.

TISHRIN on Egyptian, Israeli Stands

JN260946 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 26 Jan (SANA) -- The newspaper TISHRIN editorially today says that the rabid and treacherous campaign which Husni Mubarak, head of the Egyptian regime, has launched against Syria is concomitant with the continuing clamor by the Israeli leaders over the air defense installations in Syria. The two campaigns, the paper adds, have one objective despite the disparity of approach and course.

TISHRIN continues to say that their common objective is summed up in the attempt to strike at Syria's military force and incite the internal enemies to move simultaneously with Israel to activate the U.S.-Zionist plan for the region. The paper asserts that the premedidated attack against Syria and its regime will be well planned by the United States during the talks with its lackeys in the region. It is likely that the plan will be implemented in stages.

The first stage will be of a military nature and will be implemented by Israel, and the second will assume the nature of the previous attempts: sowing sedition and strife.

TISHRIN explains that Syria, which has efficiently and solidly confronted all kinds of aggression, is today stronger than ever. We are not disclosing a secret by saying that Syria's elements of power are the very same with which it has aborted all previous attacks. Nevertheless, we can say frankly that these elements have developed both qualitatively and quantitatively and are too lofty to be harmed or weakened by the enemies.

TISHRIN concludes its editorial by asserting that Syria will always remain the daring force ready to thwart any aggression and repel its perpetrators and supporters.

TRADE MINISTER LEAVES FOR BULGARIA 23 JAN

JN232007 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1820 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA) -- Muhammad Ghabbash, supply and internal trade minister, left Damascus today for Sofia leading an official delegation on a 6-day visit to Bulgaria.

During his visit, Ghabbash will hold talks with Bulgarian officials on bolstering and developing relations between the two countries in the various supply fields. The talks will also touch on the possibility of exchanging foodstuffs.

BRIEFS

CREDENTIALS OF NEW AMBASSADORS -- Damascus, 23 Jan (SANA) -- President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received the credentials of the Argentine, Vietnamese, Venezuelan, Netherlands, and Turkish ambassadors to Syria Andreas Gabriel Swisterman, (Le Than Tamir), Jose Miguel Quintana Guevara, Hendrik Jan Van Oordt, and Orhan Aka respectively. [Damascus SANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jan 83 JN]

HASSAN INVITES ISRAELIS TO TALK WITH PLO

TA251922 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] King Hassan of Morocco has said that he is officially inviting any Israeli element wishing to open a dialogue with the PLO to a conference or for meetings on Moroccan soil. He said that in the past he had already met twice with Israelis who had met not long ago with Yasir 'Arafat.

Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus reports that King Hassan was speaking in an interview over the French state radio in its broadcasts to Africa.

BEGIN: WE DON'T WANT CONFRONTATION WITH U.S.

TA261201 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1125 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister, speaking with heads of the Jewish lobby from Washington, has said that Israel is not interested in a confrontation with the United States and wants to resolve the differences of opinion between Jerusalem and Washington through a dialogue. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports from the meeting:

Following reports of deterioration in Israeli-U.S. relations, the prime minister said: We do not want a confrontation with the United States, so what are we being acussed of? Is wanting peace with another Arab country, Lebanon, a crime? Is it only because Saudi Arabia is pressure Lebanon not to reach an arrangement with us that we find ourselves as the focus of U.S. criticism? The prime minister emphasized Israel's demands on the issue of the future arrangements in Lebanon as originating in Israel's security needs. It will not concede these conditions.

However, let us repeat, the prime minister said and emphasized several times during his remarks his desire not to have a confrontation with the United States. And, in this context, reports continue to reach Jerusalem about U.S. Administration intentions to use sanctions against Israel as a reaction to the intransigent position Jerusalem is taking, according to the administration leaders, in the negotiations with Lebanon. U.S. sources in Israel have taken the trouble over the last 24 hours to circulate confirmations of the reports published in Washington about the sanctions and various countermoves being considered against Israel in the U.S. capital.

The heads of the Jewish lobby tried to persuade the prime minister to deal with his negative image in the United States, but Begin replied: With all the admiration I have for public opinion, when it is a question of issues vital to Israel's existence, public opinion is not to be taken into consideration.

As for the peace process in the area, Begin added that he had invited King Husayn of Jordan several times to come and join the negotiations table. That invitation still stands on the basis of the Camp David agreements. Israel's positions, he added, were filled with concessions and gestures. This applies to the Lebanon affair. We conceded a peace agreement with Lebanon, on the site of the talks, and the same applies to the peace agreement with Egypt. We conceded all of the Sinai. Israel will not agree to freeze the establishment of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. This is a pre-condition that we will not accept.

These are remarks made by the prime minister this morning to members of the Jewish lobby from Washington.

SHARON STRESSES 'U.S. FRIENDSHIP' FOR ISRAEL

TA251632 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1610 GMT 25 Jan 83

["Defense Minister: United States Must Discuss With Syrians Their Evacuation From Lebanon" -- ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 25 Jan (ITIM) -- There was intentional exaggeration by certain elements in the presentation of the events that occurred between the Marines and IDF soldiers. Meanwhile, the truth is that advancing the peace process between Israel and Lebanon is also in the interest of the United States, and this goal must be strived for together. These remarks were made by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon at a meeting today with the delegation from the Jewish lobby at the U.S. House of Representatives. At the meeting, held at the defense minister's Tel Aviv office and lasting about 2 and 1/2 hours, Sharon reviewed the outstanding problems between Israel and the United States and answered the delegation's questions.

Sharon stressed U.S. friendship for Israel and the importance he himself attaches to cooperation between Jerusalem and Washington.

The defense minister noted that it is necessary that the United States talk with the Syrians about their withdrawal from Lebanon and that of the PLO from northern Lebanon to promote a quick settlement in Lebanon.

Sharon added that there is no room for linking the arrangements in Lebanon with the problem of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Acceptable arrangements can be achieved relatively quickly in Lebanon, while regarding Judaea and Samaria, the Reagan plan is unacceptable to Israel because, for one, it might pave the way for a recurrence of the "Lebanese model" of Palestinian terrorism and a "terrorist state" within a state, in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, a situation Israel would not agree to under any circumstances.

SHAMIR ON U.S., ISRAELI POSITIONS, LEBANON

TA251850 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said Israel's aims in Lebanon are the same as those of the United States, but differences sometimes arise over priorities. The foreign minister was speaking in the Knesset in reply to a motion by Ge'ula Kohen accusing the United States of obstruction in the Lebanese negotiations. From the Knesset, Hack Katzenell reports:

Ge'ula Kohen, of the rightwing Tehiya Party, charged that the United States is playing a cynical role in Lebanon, persuading President al-Jumayyil not to make concessions to Israel and then telling Israel that Al-Jumayyil cannot afford to make them. There is a confrontation between Israel and the United States, MK Kohen said, and there is no use deluding ourselves. We keep telling the United States what a strategic asset we are and I personally believe it, she said, but the United States not only kicks its strategic asset in the backside, it kicks it in the teeth -- not only with threats, also with action. For example, the delivery of the F-16 fighters to Israel is still suspended.

MK Kohen said the real reason for America's impatience to get a settlement in Lebanon is that it wants to show King Husayn it can twist Israel's arm and bring him into the negotiations. The risks, she said, are not only to Qiryat Shemona and Galilee, but also to Qiryat Arba' and Judaea. She said Israel must stick to its demand for early warning stations in Lebanon and must prepare for a confrontation with the United States, if necessary, by tightening our belts to be able to do without U.S. aid.

In his reply, Foreign Minister Shamir said Israel has a great deal in common with the United States, but there are also disagreements. He conceded that some elements in the U.S. Administration may hold the view that Ge'ula Kohen attributes to them. Shamir said Israel is just as anxious as the United States to achieve a quick settlement in Lebanon, but we attach paramount importance, Shamir said, to the question what will happen after the withdrawal. Therefore, it is essential to have security arrangements to ensure that the situation that exists in southern Lebanon before Peace for Galilee does not return.

Turning to the question of negotiations with Jordan, Shamir said: There are rumors that King Husayn will join the peace process if Israel makes this or that concession. Israel is prepared to negotiate with Husayn, but only on the basis of the Camp David accords, the foreign minister said. Israel is not prepared to negotiate with the PLO or its emissaries.

For the Labor opposition, MK Dani Rosolio said: It is hard to tell what the present government wants of the United States. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon had brought back his famous memorandum of understanding, declaring Israel had become the elite commando of the United States, Rosolio said. Now, a coalition member, Ge'ula Kohen is talking as though the United States were Israel's No 1 enemy. He proposed that Kohen's motion be struck off the agenda, but, by a government majority, it was transferred to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

MA'ARIV VIEWS U.S. 'PRESSURE,' TALKS RECESS

TA251415 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jan 83 p 5

[Editorial: "Hints and Threats"]

[Text] To date no official U.S. element has said that pressure on Israel is to be expected in order to force it to change its policy regarding the negotiations with Lebanon. However, when the U.S. press hinted that there is a plan to exert pressure by holding up military and economic aid, the administration neither confirmed nor denied it; it is convenient for it to hold such a threat over Israel's head.

So far Washington has avoided basing its relations with Israel on this crude method of harming security or the economy to obtain political concessions, and what is more, on several occasions official spokesmen have even denied that any such possibility was being considered. Now the tactics are different. The administration is not threatening, but if somebody else threatens in its name, it wraps itself in silence.

In the talks held in Israel last week, Philip Habib on several occasions hinted that President Reagan was losing his patience and he would react with dissatisfaction if the speed of the negotiations was not accelerated (that is, if Israel did not concede its conditions for a withdrawal). On no occasion did he say what would happen if the President really did become angry, and if the impression here is that it is Israel that bears the responsibility for the deadlock that has occurred in the talks. It was possible to understand from what he said, however, that the anger would take some tangible form.

This therefore is a new stage in the pressure that the administration wants to put on Israel, a stage in which no official personage is threatening anything specific, but everyone wants to explain that it is not inconceivable that economic or military sanctions could be used.

In this situation Israel must first of all keep calm. If it is a test of nerves that we are now facing, we must prove that we have the strength to stand up to the tension, all the more so as it is not to be imagined that matters will be decided by using pressure and sanctions.

A profound misunderstanding has been created between Israel and the United States, whose basis, among other things, lies in the fact that several contradictory trends are at work in Washington about the Lebanese question: What Ambassador Draper and his aide said at the Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona talks does not fit in with what Philip Habib has said and done, and it is not clear now whether the State Department and the White House are employing the same style.

The situation requires clarification talks on a high level and a recess in the negotiations with Lebanon until the aims of Washington are clear.

MARINES REPORTEDLY AT POSITIONS IDF SHOULD HOLD

TA260624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] From checks carried out by the IDF in southern Lebanon yesterday, it seems that the U.S. Marines are positioned in three points which, according to the agreements between the IDF and the Lebanese Army, should be under IDF control. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has reported that these three point sare in the region of the village of Rayhan, east of the railroad tracks. Last night the U.S. State Department claimed that there were no foundations for Israel's accusations that the Marines were defending the terrorists against the IDF.

COMMENTATOR EXAMINES REAGAN MESSAGE TO BEGIN

TA210949 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Jan 83 p 14

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "The Unfortunate Sentence in Reagan's Message to Begin"]

[Text] Although the personal message President Reagan sent Prime Minister Menahem Begin through Ambassador Philip Habib opens with "Dear Menahem," it cannot be termed "a most warm message," or even a "very friendly" one. Actually, it cannot even be called simply "friendly." It is a very straightforward message, in fact, unpleasant, both in its phrasing and in the spirit it conveys.

Why the prime minister's associates called this message "friendly" is unclear. Like all diplomatic messages, this last one also leaves much room for interpretation. Still it appears on the surface that what Reagan is actually telling Begin is that in terms of timing, Begin's U.S. visit is tied to progress in the negotiations on an arrangement in Lebanon. This is the gist of the passage in Reagan's message where it is more or less explained that once the Lebanese issue is behind us, our meeting in Washington will afford us the opportunity to exchange views on U.S.-Israeli relations and on the resumption of the peace process according to the Camp David accords.

Perhaps those who felt it necessary to call the message "friendly" had another passage in mind, one in which it says that the intention in dispatching Ambassador Habib was "to bring about cooperation between our two countries," but the "cooperation" as manifest during the first week of Habib's stay in Israel can only serve to point out the emptiness of these words.

We were told that Habib himself privately described the passage linking the prime minister's visit to progress in the Lebanese negotiations -- set against the background of the hostile reports emanating from "unidentified officials" in the U.S. Administration, who reported this to the media, which, in turn, transmitted it to Israel -- as "unfortunate phrasing."

This is undoubtedly a sorry sentence, but a president of a great superpower must choose his sentences carefully before sending a personal message. Post factum, we heard nothing that would indicate that the President was trying to put an end to the liberty some administration sources took in explaining the President's mood. Those sources said that as long as the negotiations over an arrangement in Lebanon was not over and as long as President Navon's moves remain unknown, no date will be set for Begin's visit to Washington. The prime minister's office described this as "infantile gossip," whereas U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, who accompanied Ambassador Habib to the meeting with the prime minister, found the right moment to interrupt the conversation and remark: "Incidentally, we (himself and Habib) were in Washington and investigated this in the administration....we can tell you, Mr Prime Minister, that they are unfounded...They are only nasty words." Lewis repeated this phrase three times, and Habib also confirmed his colleagues' formulation.

And yet only a few days passed and "an anonymous source" in the administration again interpreted the President's attitude toward the prime minister. This time, knowledgeable sources said President Ronald Reagan, just like his predecessor Jimmy Carter, has begun to feel frustrated and disturbed by Menahem Begin. According to one of the "reliable sources," the President doubts that he can trust the prime minister, feeling that Begin had misled him three times in the course of the last year. The source pointed to three examples: Begin promised the President that his reaction to the matter of selling AWACS to Saudi Arabia would be moderate, whereas in fact Begin lashed out harshly against the deal, letting loose an assault on the President by Israel's friends in Congress and the Jewish community 1 day after he left the White House. The "reliable source" also told a reporter that in private conversations, Reagan was heard to have called Begin "a liar."

The second time Begin "misled" Reagan was when he promised him, during his visit to Washington in June, that the IDF would not advance in Lebanon beyond the 40 km line. The third "deceit" was regarding the IDF's entry into West Beirut. THE JERUSALEM POST's correspondent, who cited the reliable source in Washington, reports that Reagan had lost faith in Begin because his word has proved worthless, and that after he had been bitten three times, the President, who has "a phenomenal memory" has no intention of being shy any more....

These are truly "nasty words" as Ambassador Lewis called them. However, for some odd reason, neither the President nor his close associates ever bothered to come out and say that Reagan did not call Begin "a liar" (in private...) or that he did not say Begin's word was "worthless." Even Philip Habib, whose attention was directed to this front-page report on the Jerusalem English-language newspaper by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, had no adequate reply.

Begin himself, however, pointed out that he was not impressed by the "campaign" conducted against him by obscure elements in the administration, perhaps even at the White House, not just in Shultz' State Department. However, this reply can hardly truly condense his true feelings in view of these shady waves.

In an internal argument raised during the debate held at the prime minister's office over President Reagan's appeal that Ambassador Habib be allowed to take the initiative in the negotiating process over the Lebanon arrangements, Begin said, contrary to Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon's views, that the idea should not be turned down because he could not ignore a "presidential appeal" to him.

Perhaps the prime minsier did well in complying with President Reagan's request, if only out of the need to test the real U.S. intentions.

Were things that unclear?

In fact, yes. Before the agenda was agreed upon in the talks between Israel and Lebanon, mediated by Ambassador Morris Draper, it was already clear that the directives from Washington indicate a clear trend: not to encourage President al-Jumayyil to rush to reach an agreement with Israel; not to encourage the establishment of genuinely normal ties between Israel and Lebanon (for fear this normalization might be more real, in which case the Americans would be hard put to reach an understanding with the Syrians and the PLO).

For a moment it looked as though the cat was out of the bag: Draper, too, knew that the real, main obstacle to progress is Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan. When concerned and shown evidence that it is Al-Wazzan who was preventing any possibility of progress, Draper reacted: "Washington will not allow the Lebanese prime minister to fall over this matter."

What is "this matter?" Normalization.

And when Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche told Draper: "The United States did not pressure Lebanon enough to accept the suggestion it itself made; hence the freeze," the U.S. ambassador replied angrily. "I pressed as hard as I could...."

"How much?"

"According to my government's instruction, I was not permitted to pressure Lebanon into accepting the normalization business...at least not at the opening of the negotiations....We may reach this at its end...."

So the negotiations are not between Israel and Lebanon, but between Israel and the U.S. Administration, as Ambassador Draper admitted, and the latter is not prepared to provide him with instructions in the spirit of the Israeli position.

So along came Ambassador Habib, declaring that he believed it would be possible to conclude the negotiations "within a week." How? As he told the prime minister, Habib does not believe in direct negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

So Begin told him: We are prepared to have Ambassador Habib harnessed to the process, but not at the expense of the direct negotiations because they are of particular importance, as it was with the Egyptians....

But Habib, who repeated Reagan's words in his message to the prime minister, maintains that given the speed at which the Khaldah and Qiryat Shemona talks are being held, it would be impossible to reach an agreement fast, whereas he, like his superior President Reagan, wants an agreement "in a week."

Begin: The issues are complex and require much patience....

Yet Habib insists: The present mechanism would not lead to a swift arrangement; there are elements who want to sabotage the negotiations....

What, then, is Habib suggesting as a practical recipe for progress?

Let's agree between ourselves, he told Begin, and reach a joint strategy (on the Lebanese issue). I think whatever is agreed upon between us will be accepted by the Lebanese.

But these are only words, and pretty as they might be, what does it mean to say "joint strategy"? That Israel should accept what the United States suggests? Is this "cooperation?"

The fact is that what happened essentially is this: Habib wanted Israel to accept his suggestion that there is no need for normalization and certainly not for a written detailed agreement, not even in accordance with what the agenda accepted by the Lebanese said. What then? Oral agreements on a limited series of issues with the aim of effecting a gradual "normalization?"

What about the security arrangements? Israel has no need for early warning stations, Habib stated, and the supervision of the 45-50-km security strip in the south could be handed over to UNIFIL. That is, the UN forces which according to "the Norwegian document" included some people who cooperated with the terrorists, allowing them to fortify their positions in their zone.

Following a week of deliberations here between Ambassador Habib and Foreign Minister Shamir, Habib apparently learned that he would reach his objective neither "in a week," nor "in a couple of weeks," if he wants to realize his views on the nature of the arrangement between Israel and Lebanon. At a certain moment toward the end of their second meeting on Thursday, Shamir told Habib: "Mr Ambassador, is this what we launched the Peace for Galilee operation for? So that all the dangers that threatened us would return? Is this what we paid the heavy price for?"

Habib tried to explain President al-Jumayyil's delicate predicament to his Jerusalem interlocutors: The United States and Israel share the same goal, but Israel must understand that "this constellation," as he calls it, namely, Amin al-Jumayyil, would not be able to carry on its shoulders too heavy a load... He would be unable to face the Arab countries and survive if the agreement includes everything Israel demands. Besides, if Israel receives early warning stations in southern Lebanon, the Syrians too would demand such stations in the area they would have to evacuate as part of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. If that is the case, where will we go from there?

Shamir took a newspaper from last Wednesday and showed Habib its main headline: "The United States Warns Beirut Against a Hasty Peace Treaty With Israel." The problem is that it is not only a peace treaty that the United States opposes, but it also objects to an arrangement on the basis of the abolition of the very state of war, on which "normal" relations would be founded (so as not to fall, God forbid, into the trap of the word "normalization.")

Habib argued in his defense: I never said such things.... You cannot come complaining to me. My line is that I do not oppose anything you can achieve.

But in reality, Habib is found to be different. He, too, is not permitting Israel to get everything out of Lebanon it could were it not for the active interference of the United States, which is not permitting Al-Jumayyil to reach a compromise with Israel on the basis of the understanding reached with his consent in the secret negotiations with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Now, when the United States has begun to fear that it might lose the initiative in view of the Soviet Union's successful move in Syria, Washington may reassess its own moves. If the United States thought that it could win over Syria's heart at the expense of Israel's vital interests, now it has learned that it did not think things out fully. The fact is that Israel told the United States that Soviet SAM-5's are present in Damascus -- and it automatically follows that a reinforcement of Soviet aides also went to Syria. And if one is to take into account that the Soviet move was first conceived in Brezhnev's days -- that is to say in August, in apparent reaction to the arrival of the U.S. Marines in Lebanon -- then it can be concluded that not always can a great superpower properly read developments in the region.

There was a time when a presidential statement along the lines of: Our goal is to bring about cooperation between our two countries, as Reagan wrote to Begin, or remarks about "a joint strategy" as Habib proposed, had real backing. But in the Shultz era, things have turned upside down. Ever since Alexander Haig was removed, dialogue with Israel ceased. Washington stopped including Israel in its moves. Furthermore, it has begun taking action behind Israel's back with the clear aim of torpedoing it and presenting it with faits accomplis. Israel was not told a thing about directives Washington issued to Draper on stopping Al-Jumayyil from reaching an agreement with Israel along the spirit of the Sharon document. This was the policy the moment George Shultz' line took control over U.S. foreign policy for the Middle East: The Reagan plan, the goal of which is to remove Israel from Judaea and Samaria, and an arrangement in Lebanon on the basis of UNIFIL imply denying Israel any political achievement from the Peace for Galilee operation.

It appears as though the United States, too, would soon learn that in attempting to be too eager and anxious to limit Israel's moves, it made a mistake.

Had the United States encouraged Lebanon to reach an arrangement with Israel, the United States would have accomplished something, too. There was a stage where Syria was more amenable to it, as a result of the blows it was dealt by Israel in the Lebanon war. But once Damascus saw that its job was being done by the United States, what could have been more natural from its standpoint than to wait for the fruit of the U.S. pressures on Israel?

Now that the missile deal with the Soviet Union is completed, Syria feels more secure. It thinks that it is recuperating from the military blow and that time is playing into its hands. Damascus believes that time is pressing Israel in Lebanon and that the Israeli presence a few dozen kilometers from Damascus is no longer such a pain in the neck. Relying on the Soviet Union, Damascus is acting along two fronts: the rehabilitation of its military power and the maintenance of its positions in Lebanon with an attempt to sabotage the political process in the region. Damascus seems to believe that if it maintains its military option, it could more easily obtain its political goal, particularly an arrangement in Lebanon that would not harm its prestige.

Yuriy Andropov is clearly determined to fortify the Soviet stand in the region, seeing that is was so severely harmed during Brezhnev's days. In this battle, the essence of which is defense of Soviet assets in the region, Moscow is not hesitating to remove the limitations on the supply of new weapon systems and to deliver to Syria sophisticated systems that have not even been given to Warsaw Pact countries.

So this is the implication of the latest Soviet move: to create a crisis situation in the Middle East by fostering the arms race, to guarantee its hold on Syria, and to prevent the United States from translating into the language of facts the advantages it got thanks to Israel's achievements in Lebanon. The Soviet Union will not hesitate to foster an atmosphere of confrontation between Syria and Israel toward this end, hoping that this way Wasington would be forced to hold a dialogue with Moscow for fear of a war that could drag in outside military powers. However, everyone knows that "Soviet advisers" already have been incorporated into various establishments, particularly in the Syrian air deployment.

So Andropov is trying to save the Soviet Union's prestige in the area, shattered by the severe and lethal blows its two clients, Syria and the PLO, suffered while Moscow stood by.

Moreover, in addition to the facts that have slowly taken shape in the area upon the arrival of the U.S. Marines, the Soviet Union felt hurt when Reagan ignored all of Brezhnev's approaches. It was clearly a slap in the face the Soviet Union could not take. Andropov's entry into office in place of Brezhnev demanded that he provide an immediate answer to the question of Moscow's waning status in the area. The answer was coming to Syria's aid, strengthening it dramatically, and not only through declarations. This way, the deal on establishing an air defense system that cannot only defend but also threaten the area for a range of hundreds of kilometers materialized.

Politically, this means that Washington will be forced, in spite of itself, to take into account the new facts in coming to discuss with Damascus its withdrawal from Lebanon. What, for instance, would happen if Syria makes the removal of its forces conditional upon "certain presence" in Al-Biqa' as part of the security arrangements it seeks to have, like the arrangements Israel is demanding? And what if Syria wants to have in that certain presence in Al-Biqa' also Soviet advisers, like the U.S. advisers in Lebanon, helping it rehabilitate its army?

In short, Lebanon is becoming an intersuperpower arena, not a U.S. asset. This could have a grave impact on the other U.S. moves in the region because Jordan, too -- which Habib said last week might join the talks with Israel -- will have to do some soul-searching in view of the new facts. Moscow certainly would be prepared to welcome 'Arafat's acceptance of a "confederation" with Jordan. But what does this signify? It means a confederation betwen two countries, Jordan and the independent Palestinian state. Is Husayn ready for this? Is the United States?

The United States will have to reassess all its moves. It will not be enough to assume that a working paper like the Reagan plan and the rejection of another working paper (that of the defense minister) are bridges that can be crossed, and moreover, safe ones. As things appear at this stage, they are only paper bridges, nothing more. And a "personal message," even if it comes from the President, is nothing more than paper, if Israel's existential problems will not be taken into sufficient account.

SHARON COMMENTS ON EARLY WARNING STATIONS

TA261147 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1103 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The defense minister has told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel is insisting on its demand that five supervisory stations, not intended solely for intelligence purposes, be established in Lebanon. Our Knesset correspondent Gil'ad Mishori reports:

The defense minister used the term supervisory stations [tahanot piku'ah] for those five points that Israel is demanding be established in Lebanon as a condition for its withdrawal. MK Shim'on Peres repeated to the committee meeting his stand that we do not need early warning stations and the intelligence information can be gathered from the air and sea. Sharon answered: You know that some of the things cannot be supervised from the sea and air. We would be happy if this were the case. An IDF presence in the field is necessary. The publicized figure of soldiers to be positioned in the supervisory stations, 750, is somewhat exaggerated, Sharon said.

Asked how long there will be an IDF presence in the field, the minister replied: The more capable the Lebanese Army is of supervising what is happening, the smaller the IDF presence will be. The Lebanese are demanding that the Americans man the stations. Israel will not agree to such an arrangement under any circumstances, Sharon said, repeating his attack on the Americans: Their goal, he said, is to reduce as much as possible Israel's achievements in the negotiations.

EYTAN ON LEBANON SITUATION, WEST BANK POLICY

TA260816 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jan 83 pp 1, 8

[Report by political correspondent Sara Honig]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv -- Israel must have from three to five early warning stations or bases in southern Lebanon to make sure that the 45-kilometre security zone that Israel wants around its northern frontier remains free of terrorists, Chief of Staff Rav-aluf [Lieutenant General] Refa'el Eytan said yesterday at a government information centre symposium on the Middle East after the Lebanon war.

Eytan also said that as of April it is hoped that non-commissioned military personnel would not have to do more than 30 to 35 days of reserve duty a year. He also vigorously defended his orders to soldiers combating West Bank disturbances.

The chief of staff maintained that "at this point Israel has no other solution than to maintain a presence in southern Lebanon for a period to be agreed upon by all sides. We need stations, or places -- whatever they may be called -- from which Israelis would be able to make sure that terrorists do not once more infiltrate within 45 kilometres of our borders, that they do not once more build up their presence there and start shooting."

He maintained that there "had been no incidents with the American Marines. From all the talk about it, one would think we were shooting at each other. All that happened was that about a fortnight ago, when an IDF bus was attacked, our trackers followed the terrorists all the way to the American lines. Maybe the Marines got anxious, not knowing that we would not cross the line."

Eytan also said: "Israel will make sure that in any agreement the role of Major Sa'd Haddad will be taken into account."

Turning to the criticism of his instructions to the IDF during the disturbances in the administered areas last spring, Eytan said, "every single order I gave the soldiers was legal. Curfews are legal. So are punishments such as fines. In my days, only four persons were deported, as against over 600 before I became chief of staff. Only 40 houses were blown up or sealed in the years I have been chief of staff, as against more than 160 previously. I have instructed that small groups of soldiers not be sent into situations in which disturbances can break out, because a small band is more likely to need to open fire in self-defence. We have also decided to have several observation points in places especially prone to trouble, to prevent attacks on vehicles, etc."

2 EXPLOSIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON REPORTED

TA251941 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1543 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] This morning at about 0800 GMT two explosions were heard from southern Lebanon north of Zarit Moshav. In the course of a search, the shards of two Katyusha shells were found, which were apparently fired at an IDF position in the region and missed. IDF troops are still investigating the event. This has been announced by the IDF spokesman.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI MESSAGE FROM ETHIOPIAN LEADER

NC260738 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday received Yusuf Ahmed, Ethiopian communications and transport minister and chairman of the current session of the African planning, transport, and communications ministers. He handed the brother leader a message from Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council in the Socialist Republic of Ethiopia.

In his message to the brother leader, the Ethiopian chairman affirmed the depth of relations between the Jamahiriyah and Ethiopia and the joint struggle on a single front against the imperialist and reactionary plots in Africa.

AL-QADHDHAFI SPEECH AT ROMANIAN BANQUET

LD260126 Tripoli JANA in English 1751 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi' Thani 10, Jan 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY -- The leader of the revolution has reaffirmed the principle stands of The Great Al-Fatih Revolution towards the Arab-Zionist conflict saying that the Zionist entity is a threat to world peace and security.

The leader has warned in the banquet, which was given in his honour by President Nicolae Ceausescu, from the increasing Zionist aggressive activities in the Arab region saying that without the complete eradication of imperialism and Zionism, peace will always be threatened. He said that Zionism is the enemy of both Arabs and Jews alike.

The leader has called on the Arabs, the Jews and the peace-loving nations to join hands together and fight Zionism. He added that the truce with imperialism is only a temporary one and not a radical solution to the cause of peace in the world.

The world has become aware of the fact that the Zionist state is a base of world imperialism. There the fight against imperialism and against Zionism is inseparable. Zionism is responsible for the massacres committed against the Palestinian and Lebanese people in Lebanon. The leader said that Zionism has shown its aggressive nature to the world saying that Romania's relations with the Israelis did not stop them from committing the barbaric massacres on the Lebanese. The leader added that the so-called negotiations proved to mean the surrender of the Arabs to Zionism and the imposition of Zionist and imperialist conditions on the Arabs.

The current negotiations between the Lebanese and the Zionists shows that the Israelis do not want only to drive the Palestinians out of their lands but also to occupy another Arab country and impose a unilateral treaty on it.

MOROCCO

TAZI RECEIVES AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR

LD251406 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Rabat, Jan 25 (MAP) -- Mr. Abdelhaq Tazi, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs, received visiting Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Willibald Pahr, on Monday in Rabat.

Addressing the Austrian delegation, Mr. Tazi said the meeting would be devoted to examining the current state of relations of cooperation between Morocco and Austria and to identifying ways of improving them so that they cover all areas.

He recalled some figures of the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries and urged the two countries' delegations present at the meeting to endeavor in order to give a new impetus to these exchanges.

On economic and technical cooperation, Mr. Tazi said that a series of measures should be taken in this regard by the two countries, namely the achievement of common projects, investments in both countries, the granting of study scholarships by Austria to Moroccan students, technical staff training as well as Austria's technical assistance to the achievement of Moroccan social and economic projects figuring in the Moroccan-five-year plan.

The Austrian minister for his part said that his delegation's visit to Morocco is a step forward to strengthening bilateral cooperation. He also praised efforts made by King Hassan II of Morocco in searching a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, which he said, constitutes the main concern of the international community.

The Austrian delegation who arrived here Monday on a four day official visit to Morocco, comprises several officials from the economic sphere in Austria. It will hold a series of talks with Moroccan official on bilateral cooperation in all areas.

TAZI, SAUDI'S 'ALI RIDA LEAD JOINT COMMITTEE

LD220043 Riyadh SPA in English 2053 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Rabat, Jan 21, SPA -- The third session of the joint Saudi-Moroccan committee began here today with leaders of the two delegations expressing hope that the talks would lead to further cooperation between both countries.

The teams were led by the Saudi foreign under-secretary for economic affairs 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Ali Rida and the Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs Abdelhaz Tazi.

Mr Tazi said it was a good coincidence for the session to take place as the Arab League and Jerusalem Committee were meeting in Marrakech. He called for developing Saudi-Moroccan cooperation to cover transport, farming, agrarian reform, energy, minerals and joint industrial projects.

The Saudi chief delegate for his part praised the brotherly relations and cooperation between the two countries and reviewed the achievements made since the joint committee was formed. The meeting later formed five sub-committees to discuss items on the agenda -- the cultural, economic and financial, technical cooperation, transport and telecommunications, and drafting committees.

TUNISIA

BOURGUIBA INTERVIEWED ON NONALIGNED MEETING

LD241926 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1710 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Tunis, January 24 (TANJUG) -- The forthcoming summit conference of nonaligned countries in New Delhi will be an opportunity to reconfirm the principles of peaceful coexistence, to denounce the reckless arms race and to point to the dangers of war.

The above was stated by Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba in an interview to TANJUG on the occasion of the seventh nonaligned summit.

Bourguiba stressed that the movement, which sprang up and developed in the conditions of the cold war and accepted its challenge, will also know how to deal with the situation facing it today.

The Tunisian president said the nonaligned would at the summit by all means discuss the elimination of the hotbeds of tensions, the termination of occupations and the cessation of interference in the affairs of others actions for extinguishing the hotbeds of international tensions, for finding ways to establish lasting security for all countries, and actions for total and a universal disarmament, especially nuclear, would strengthen solidarity within the movement and prevent new disagreements, he said.

The summit may also call upon the two super-powers, as it did in Belgrade in 1961, to start negotiations in the interest of the relaxation of tensions, President Bourguiba said.

Pointing to the priorities of the movement's action on the political level, the Tunisian president said that the nonaligned should reconfirm the principles of peaceful coexistence, review the measures undertaken with a view to eliminating colonialism, racism, Zionism and apartheid, especially in Palestine, Namibia and South Africa, and reiterate support to the liberation movements.

These political priorities, Bourguiba said, include the opposition to aggression, occupation and expansion. The Tunisian president called for activities conducive to settling disputes between nonaligned countries by peaceful means.

On the economic level, Bourguiba said, the movement ought to promote the struggle for a new international economic order. The development of cooperation among nonaligned countries, themselves, is another priority in this domain, he said.

The Tunisian president urged the launching of the global negotiations on international economic relations.

Bourguiba said that Tunisia calls for turning the Mediterranean region into a "lake of peace" and resolutely supports African liberation movements while denouncing South Africa's colonialism and apartheid.

Tunisia is making efforts towards establishing a greater maghreb, which, he said, constitutes an essential stage on the road to effective Arab unity.

The Tunisian president described Yugoslav-Runisian relations as "exemplary" and said that "the two countries' views are very close and even identical on certain questions".

ALGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTER'S VISIT APPRAISED

LD221750 Algiers APS English 1005 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Algiers, 22/1/83 (APS) -- At the end of a five-day official visit in Tunisia, Mr Yala, Algerian home minister, said that his visit "enabled numerous contacts and talks on all problems interesting the two brother countries". Indeed, the Algerian minister met and conferred with President Bourguiba, the Prime Minister, Mzali, the Foreign Affairs Minister, Beji es-Sebsi, the Home Minister Driss Guiga, the Minister of Planning and Finances Mansour Moalla, the Minister of Information Tahar Belkhodja, the director of the Destourian Socialist Party, Mongi Kooli, and Tunis Mayor, Akaria Ben Mostepha. On this occaison, the Algerian-Tunisian bilateral relations were evoked in all fields.

The minister of information, Mr Belkhodja, underlined the wide prospects betwen the two countries and the mutual interests that tie them up and call them to a further concertation.

For the Tunisian home minister, Driss Guiga, Mr Yala's visit constituted "a positive step in the reactivation of the bilateral relations" and declared to be "optimistic" as for future prospects between the two countries.

Besides, the Tunisian press strongly put the stress on the Algerian minister's visit and issued in head lines, President Chadli's message to President Bourguiba.

The Tunisian press also stressed the "friendship and solidarity links" that exist between Algeria and Tunisia.

"Mr Yala's visit," the Tunisian daily "L'ACTION", organ of the Destourian Socialist Party, mainly wrote, "set a new basis in the process of functional complementarity between Algeria and Tunisia".

"It is still more important that our peoples need, more than ever before, to close ranks and envisage the future in the solidarity and the well understood approach in their common purpose," the daily added.

Underlining the holy alliance that was forged between Maghreb countries at the time of the national liberation, the Tunisian daily "LE TEMPS" called for the necessity to edify the great Maghreb and said that the "holy union" made the force of the three Maghreban countries at the time of the hard ordeals they lived together.

As for the Algerian home minister, he stated "the result we have reached is the necessity to purify the climate in the region, which will promote the concretization of our peoples' expectations to the unity of the Arab great Maghreb".

CHEDLI KLIBI RETURNS FROM MOROCCO 23 JANUARY

LD241000 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Tunis, 24 Jan (MAP) -- Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, returned to Tunis from Marrakech last night after taking part in the work of the seventh session of the Jerusalem Committee held under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II and attended by the members of the Arab seven-member committee set up by the Fes summit.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR ISSUES COMMUNIQUE 22 JAN ON NEW CAMPAIGN

LD231148 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] From the liberated territory, 23 Jan (APS) -- A communique by the SDAR yesterday, Saturday, reported that the Saharan Popular Liberation Army launched a number of attacks against Moroccan positions which resulted in "appreciable losses in equipment and lives."

The communique pointed out that these operations fall within the framework of the general new assault against the occupation forces. It explained that the positions attacked lie along the length of the Moroccan Sahara border or inside Moroccan territory, specifically the posts of (Rbib Blau), (Rbib Limghadir), (Mzirqah), (Sibti), and (Ratmi).

Finally, the communique stressed that the intense shelling of these positions shows the aggressor the determination of our people to liberate the last areas of their national territory.

TANZANIA

REPORTAGE ON 4-DAY VISIT BY ZIMBABWE'S MAGABE

Welcomed by Nyerere

MB241852 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, has arrived in Dar es Salaam for a 4-day official visit to Tanzania. [Word indistinct] Comrade Mugabe was welcomed by the Tanzanian president, Comrade Nyerere, his deputy Comrade Abocid Jumbe, and other Tanzanian Government and party officials.

The prime minister inspected a guard of honor mounted by Tanzania's defense forces and thousands of Dar es Salaam residents were at the airport to give Comrade Mugabe a hero's welcome. The prime minister was driven to the state house where he paid courtesy call on President Nyerere. In the afternoon Comrade Mugabe held official talks with President Nyerere, and this evening the prime minister is to attend a dinner given in his honor.

The prime minister is scheduled to visit Dodom and [word indistinct] tomorrow. On Wednesday he will fly to Arusha where he will address university students. Comrade Mugabe has already visited Algeria and Malta and is expected to return to Harare on Sunday.

Talks With Nyerere

EA241928 Dar es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Official talks between Tanzania and Zimbabwe ended at state house in Dar es Salaam this evening. President Nyerere and the Zimbabwe prime minister, Ndugu Robert Mugabe led their sides at the talks.

No details of the talks were immediately available. However, speaking at the end of the talks, which lasted 90 minutes, the Zimbabwean leader announced a gift of 25,000 tons of maize to Tanzania.

Tonight, Ndugu Mugabe will be attending a state banquet given in his honor by President Nyerere.

The Zimbabwean premier, who arrived in Dar es Salaam this morning for a 5-day official visit, will leave Dar es Salaam for Dodoma tomorrow morning for a brief visit before flying to Zanzibar where he will spend the night. On Wednesday, Ndugu Mugabe will fly to Arusha where he will view wildlife at Ngorongord National Park. He will fly back to Dar es Salaam on Thursday before leaving for home the following day.

Speaks at Dinner

MB250613 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] The recent attack on ANC refugees in Lesotho shows an attempt by racist South Africa to destabilize and topple governments in neighboring countries. This was stated by the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, at a dinner hosted in his honor by President Nyerere of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam this evening.

The prime minister said that the people of Namibia can never be persuaded to forfeit their right to independence. He said that Zimbabwe refuses to be intimidated into abandoning its basic principles and the political stand it has chosen against South Africa.

Comrade Mugabe said Zimbabwe is grateful that it can build a system of economic interdependence with its neighbors in the Preferential Trade Area [PTA] and Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC].

In reply, Comrade Nyerere expressed the hope that Zimbabwe will overcome acts of aggression and sabotage from the Pretoria regime.

This afternoon, the two leaders held talks on the situation in Southern Africa, economic cooperation, the SADCC, and the OAU. Comrade Mugabe was accompanied in the talks by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende; the minister of trade and commerce, Comrade Hove; the minister of justice, Mubako; and the minister of nature resources and tourism, Comrade Chitepo. The prime minister is scheduled to visit Nujoma and Zanzibar tomorrow, and on Wednesday he will fly to Arusha where he will address university students.

Leaders Speak on Namibia

EA251150 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Last night Zimbabwe Prime Minsiter Ndugu Mugabe and his host, President Nyerere, called for the immediate implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. The two leaders expressed their opposition to the U.S. and South African stance that links Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of the Cuban troops in Angola.

Speaking at the reception [in Dar es Salaam] in honor of his guest, Mwalimu Nyerere said that changes will take place in Namibia and South Africa despite the military and economic might of the South African regime. Mwalimu Nyerere said that racist Pieter Botha, prime minister of the South African regime, will never be able to prevent changes leading toward freedom and equality, added that even the military and economic assistance given to South Africa by its friends will never be able to stem the inevitable coming of change.

In his speech Zimbabwe Prime Minister Ndugu Robert Mugabe said Zimbabweans are aware that their responsibility toward the achievement of total liberation for Africa has not yet been fulfilled. He said that Namibia's independence is being delayed by the insistence of the United States and South Africa on linking Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The Zimbabwe leader added that he fails to understand the legitimacy of their claim to speak for the people of Namibia. He said: We absolutely refuse to listen to such tricks and fabricated claims and insist that Resolution 435 be recognized and implemented immediately.

Mugabe in Dodoma

EA251628 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Zimbabwe Prime Minister Ndugu Robert Mugabe, continuing his visit to this country, is in Dodoma, where a short while ago he addressed the people of the region at the Jamhuri ground.

In his speech Ndugu Mugabe called on Tanzania to intensify efforts with Zimbabwe to confront the enemies of liberation, who are using all means to destabilize the front-line countries in the liberation of Southern Africa. The prime minister said that following Zimbabwe's independence, Mozambique and Angola had to unite and cooperate in defending their independence and bringing about progress.

He hailed Tanzania for the support it gave during the Zimbabwe liberation war, adding that the purpose of his visit is to enhance the blood-brotherhood existing between Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Earlier the Dodoma regional party chairman handed Ndugu Mugabe a spear and a shield as a mark of courage, 15 cartons of various types of wine and a carpet with the colors of the Zimbabwe flag. Ndugu Mugabe is expected to go on to Zanzibar this evening on a 1-day visit to Tanzania's islands.

UGANDA

INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER REJECTS 'BANDIT'S' CLAIMS

EA251525 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The minister of internal affairs, Dr Luwuliza Kirunda, has refuted a claim by one of the leaders of bandits that he controls large tracts of land in central Uganda and some trunk roads.

In a [word indistinct] statement issued in Kampala this afternoon the minister said: This is not true. I would like to assure all Ugandans, he declared, that the government is in full control of the situation and will not be distracted from its main course of economic recovery and development of this country for the well-being of the nationals of Uganda.

As all Ugandans know, he added, banditry organizations have been badly hit by the security forces, and they are now on the run. The bandits have now resorted to attacks on innocent and unarmed civilians either in their homes or when traveling on the roads. The criminal and antipeople mentality of these bandits, Dr Kirunda said, can be seen clearly by the wanton and vicious attacks on innocent civilians for which the same bandits claim to be responsible and are seen by them as incidents of victory in their struggle for democracy.

The minister was surprised that some international mass media in the countries which are the proponents of democracy are lending support and giving credence to banditry attacks on civilians, and praise and (?exalt) such attacks.

He reiterated the Uganda Government's commitment to the rule of law and democratic processes of the government of the country. The government therefore, he added, will continue to eliminate all elements of dictatorship and the rule of the gun.

CAMEROON

CHAD'S MISKINE DELIVERS HABRE MESSAGE TO BIYA

AB260823 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Head of state Paul Biya yesterday morning received three emissaries from friendly countries. He first received Chadian Foreign Minister Idriss Miskine. After delivering a message from President Hissein Habre to his colleague, Paul Biya, the Chadian emissary told newsmen that peace in his country was becoming effective, though on a relative basis.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

NATIONAL SOLIDARITY TAX TO BE EXTENDED TO ALL

AB251155 Paris AFP in French 0858 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Bangui, 25 Jan (AFP) -- Quartermaster Alphonse Kongolo, CAR minister of economy and finance, told AFP on Sunday that the "contribution to national solidarity" demanded of government officials and staff since January 1982 would be extended this year to workers in the private sector.

"No one should be excluded from the sacrifice," the minister of economy and finance noted. Ten days ago, Quartermaster Alphonse Kongolo presented the outline of the 1983 budget which extended this "exceptional contribution" to all Central Africans.

The CAR minister also indicated that the spirit of initiative and sacrifice of his countrymen in 1982 had convinced the international financial community and friendly countries of his country's serious desire to control its economy.

"On this basis," Quartermaster Alphonse Kongolo said, "the international financial institutions and friendly countries are prepared to renew and to increase their aid to our efforts."

The CAR minister of economy and finance indicated that the "exceptional contribution" formulated in agreement with the IMF was intended for investment. "Our country cannot remain passive in the face of the goodwill of the international community," he stressed.

Furthermore, the minister announced that IMF Vice President David Knox, who is now on a 5-day visit to the CAR, had confirmed this international institution's aid for the rehabilitation of roads and schools.

During a recent visit to Bangui, Mr Haas, director of African affiars in the West German Ministry of Foreign Affiars, had also announced an annual contribution of 4 billion CFA francs for the reconstruction of secondary road infrastructure and ferries.

The CAR minister added that an American mission was now in Bangui to participate in the formulation of a sanitation program for Kaga-Bandoro and Birao in the north of the country.

Recalling that France, a priviledged partner, was continuing its aid in 1983, the minister said that he was supposed to go to Paris on Monday to discuss details of some financial assistance.

BENIN

REPORT ON NIGERIA BORDER SITUATION

AB252221 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The repatriation of expelled foreigners from Nigeria continues. The entry into the country of the expelled persons continued today and inhabitants of Cotonou must have noticed this fact because of the long convoys which crossed the town today, convoys headed for Hila Kondji on the Benin-Togo border. Meanwhile, this morning our reporter Vincent Datect went to the Benin-Nigeria border at Krake and he noticed, as he said at 1500, that the measures taken have considerably improved the situation. The border point at Krake has been cleared and there are fewer traffic jams there than before. The police have received reinforcements and have now been able to control the situation. They have been able to establish a sanitary belt to [words indistinct] in spite of the impressive number of repatriated persons, a number which continues to increase. This afternoon a group of 600 Ghanaians was expected at Krake. There is also an increase in the number of foreigners who in spite of the fact that they have the requisite documents have decided to leave Nigeria out of caution and concern for their own security.

GHANA

ACTIVITIES RESULTING FROM QUIT ORDER REPORTED

Benin Approves Sending Ships

AB251727 Accra Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Arrangements have been completed for Ghanaians stranded at the Benin-Nigeria border to join ships at Cotonou in Benin to return home. Sources at the task force set up to handle the repatriation of Ghanaians returning from Nigeria told the GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] that the Benin authorities have approved of the dispatch of ships to Cotonou to pick up the Ghanaians, and a correspondent says this breakthrough is no doubt the outcome of talks between the Benin foreign minister, Mr Adjibade, and the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, in Accra yesterday.

Airlines To Operate Flights

AB251816 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Five foreign airlines are to operate special charter flights between Lagos and Accra starting from today to speed up the early evacuation of illegal immigrants from Nigeria. Sources close to the Ghana Airways Corporation name the airlines as the Ethiopian Airlines, which will operate 10 flights up to the end of this month, and the United Airlines Services, 3 flights daily. Others are Inter-Continental, five flights, and Nigeria Airways, three flights daily.

Reports reaching Accra say more Ghanaians are stranded at the Murtala Airport [Lagos international airport] and have spent a number of days there. Some eyewitness accounts say women among the stranded Ghanaians are subjected to indecent assaults.

Togo Closes Benin Border

AB251833 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpt] It should be recalled that after the aliens expulsion order by Nigeria, Benin closed its border with Nigeria at Idokiou, but allowed Togolese and Niger nationals to cross on their way from Nigeria, leaving the Ghanaians temporarily stranded. According to our source, three ships have been dispatched to Lome and Cotonou and the first of the batch is expected at Tema early tomorrow.

Latest reports say Togo has closed her border with Benin and observers believe that this would adversely affect Ghanaians in Nigeria who have elected to return home through Lome.

NIGERIA

INTERIOR MINISTER ANNOUNCES QUIT ORDER EXTENSION

AB251931 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The minister of internal affairs, Alhaji Ali Baba, has made further clarifications about the order requesting all aliens living [in] the country illegally to leave within 14 days. This was at a news conference in Lagos today. Bayo Olawoye was there for Radio Nigeria.

[Olawoye] Alhaji Ali Baba told newsmen that since the announcement of the 17th of this month, the Federal Government has received several representations from the governments of the countries whose citizens have been most affected by the order. These requests, he added, range from those for the extension of time, to the provision of transit camps and other facilities in order to allow for a smooth and orderly exit of the affected people. The minister stated that in the face of these representations and taking into account the affected people as well as the fact that the countries are member states of ECOWAS, the Federal Government has decided to accede to some of these requests from sisterly countries by moderating the quit order.

[Begin Ali Baba recording] [no number 1 given] But all aliens who are unemployed as well as those employed in unskilled (?labor), such as cooks, stewards, including those employed by hotels and catering establishments, laborers, watchnights, including those employed in security service and firms, gardeners, (?drivers), etc, must leave within the period of 14 days allowed in my earlier announcement. Those who are self-employed in petty trading, tailoring, carpentry, and similar trades must also leave within the same period.

2. But an extension of the period of 4 weeks, which will terminate on 28 February 1983, is granted to all those employed in skilled work such as carpenters, masons, factory workers, fitters, blacksmiths, welders, typists, nurses, etc. This extension of time will allow them sufficient period within which to tidy up their personal affairs and leave in an orderly manner as well as for their erstwhile employers to engage the services of Nigerians so as to continue with their respective businesses without undue disruption.

3. But those engaged in the professional and technical grades may (?extend) their stay in Nigeria regularly, provided their employers are able to make adequate representations for expatriates' (?permits) to be granted for the positions they occupy. [end recording]

[Olawoye] Alhaji Ali Baba announced that having regard to Nigeria's posture in African affairs and in the spirit of the OAU and ECOWAS, the Federal Government has agreed that all citizens of ECOWAS member countries as well as Cameroon and Chad who had been living in the country prior to the coming into force of the 1963 Immigration Act may remain in Nigeria irrespective of what they did. It was the view of the Federal Government, he stressed, that such people had already settled down to some gainful employment assimilated in the Nigerian population, intermarried, and developed roots. The minister also said that people in this category could easily be identified by local government authorities, village and ward heads.

Alhaji Ali Baba pointed out that the order to leave the country did not affect citizens of ECOWAS countries alone, adding that all aliens who were living illegally in Nigeria, no matter where they came from, would have to go. He appealed to Nigerians to treat the aliens with respect and in no way should they be molested.

At the news conference, the minister also announced the deportation of eight more aliens, all of them Indians. They include two brothers and a woman, Miss Christine Tigbo Fombo, a Cameroonian national.

GHANAIAN SHIP ARRIVES AT WARRI PORT 25 JAN

AB251516 Lagos NAN in English 1515 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Lagos, Jan 25, (NAN) -- The Ghana high commission said in a statement in Lagos today that a Ghanaian vessel, "Keta Lagoon" had arrived at the Warri port to evacuate Ghanaians that were affected by the quit order on illegal immigrants in Nigeria.

The statement requested all Ghanaians in the eastern part of the country to contact the Nigerian national shipping line agent at Warri for embarkation arrangements.

It also said that community leaders in the area should help to ensure orderly embarkation of the affected persons.

According to the statement, two other vessels of the Ghanaian Black Star Line are "expected to arrive Lagos shortly".

The statement further requested Ghanaians who had occupied portions of the Apapa port premises to urgently vacate the area and join other Ghanaians at the hajj terminal of the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Ikeja.

The high commission explained that arrangements have been completed with two private airlines to assist the Ghana Airways in the evacuation exercise.

NIGER CITIZENS IN KADUNA BEGIN LEAVING

AB251704 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Thousands of Niger Republic citizens residing in Kaduna illegally have started leaving Nigeria in response to the Federal Government's directive to leave the country. Our correspondent, who visited a number of places in Kaduna today, said the former Mogadishu barracks near Leventis stores was a busy place for the evacuation exercise.

A transporter told our correspondent that over 40 vehicles ranging from buses, lorries, and trailers are being used daily in the exercise. When our roving correspondent called at the Kaduna railway station, an official of the railways told our correspondent that the number of passengers had increased tremendously over the last 2 days. Most passengers at the railway station were Ghanaians and some other nationals. Some Nigerian transporters told our correspondent that Ghanaians, who didn't favor the exercise, have taken to hiding.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AB251852 Lagos NAN in English 1745 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Lagos, Jan 25 (NAN) -- Students from several institutions of higher learning in Lagos today besieged the national assembly to protest again the fire at the NET [Nigerian External Telecommunications] headquarters and other governement property.

Among the institutions were the Yaba college of technology, the University of Lagos, the national technical teachers college and the Nigerian Institute of Journalism (NIJ).

Some of the students, who carried placards with various inscriptions, covered their heads with leaves and chanted slogans expressing resentment over the requent fire incidents in the country.

They were, however, prevented from entering the national assembly as the two gates were locked with policemen standing guard.

Some of the legislators, who were unaware of what was going on, drove to the scene and were surrounded by the demonstrators.

Some of the legislators were later rescued by the police while others took to their heels.

The demonstrators then resorted to hijacking vehicles to convey them to their various campuses.

Among those hijacked was the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) vehicle attached to the national assembly, with registration number LA2748 MD, whose driver was compelled to carry the students to Akoka, Yaba.

Also seized were some buses of the Lagos state transport corporation and some private buses.

Narrating his experience later, the driver of the NAN vehicle, Mr. Godwin Ikegwuruka, said that the students struggled with him for the possession of the key of the vehicle when he first refused to carry them.

He said that they claimed that they were on national assignment and therefore, they ought to use the government vehicle.

The driver and the vehicle were, however, released after being held by the students for three and one-half hours.

TOGO

SOURCES SAY NIGERIA TO EXTEND DEADLINE

AB251823 Paris AFP in French 1746 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] Lome, 25 Jan (AFP) -- A relaxation of the expulsion measures against illegal immigrants in Nigeria was decided at the end of the visit to Lagos on Sunday by Togolese Foreign Affairs Minister Anani Kuma Akakpo-Ahianyo, informed sources disclosed in Lome today.

The Togolese minister, who met his Nigerian counterpart Mr Audu in the Nigerian capital on Sunday evening, asked the Nigerian official, "within the framework of the good neighborliness and understanding" existing between the two countries to study the possibility of easing the expulsion measures taken by Nigeria against illegal residents on the territory of Nigeria, the same sources stressed.

Mr Audu told Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo that the Nigerian authorities would "consider Togo's concern" and that the deadline would be extended to 1 March 1983 in order to enable the "illegal residents to normalize their situations to conform to the laws of the host country or leave the country," the sources disclosed again in the Togolese capital.

EYADEMA ASKS GHANA MINISTER TO VISIT LOME

AB252051 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the republic, who is always concerned about the welfare of all Togolese citizens whereever they may be, daily follows, hour upon hour, the situation of the Togolese community in Nigeria after the recent expulsion measures adopted by the Lagos authorities against foreigners. As a result, the head of state sent a mission led by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation to Nigeria on Sunday, 23 January 1983, to contact the Nigerian authorities and our fellow citizens.

The Lagos authorities made it a point to reaffirm to the Togolese delegation that the measures adopted are in accordance with ECOWAS rules, according to which foreigners who 3 months after entering Nigerian territory have neither resident permits nor other papers justifying their presence in the country have to leave. The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the Republic of Togo asked his Nigerian counterpart to seek all possible means of relaxing these measures in order to avoid unforeseeable consequences in their application, within the spirit of good neighborliness and good understanding which have always characterized our relations. The Nigerian minister assured his Togolese counterpart that the worries of the Togolese party would be fully considered.

The day after this meeting, the Nigerian authorities announced in effect the extension to 1 March 1983 of the deadline given to illegal immigrants to abide with the laws of the country or leave.

Concerning the fellow citizens living in Nigeria, the delegation sent by the founding chairman noted that all the foreigners panicked following the Nigerian Government's decision. A Togolese couple, Mr and Mrs Bolo, were attacked by a neighbor who shot at them point blank. The victims were hit and there are several gunshot wounds on their bodies. As soon as he heard of the incident, the founding chairman gave instructions so that the fellow citizens would be urgently repatriated by the presidential Fokker-28 plane. The head of state's instructions were immediately carried out and the two wounded persons were taken to the Tokoin University hospital center where they were operated upon immediately. Their lives are now safe.

When the delegation sent by the founding chairman arrived, the Togolese community was in a state of panic. A huge crowd estimated at about 10,000 people was at the embassy and its surroundings while a convoy of about 150 minibuses was waiting at the border between Benin and Nigeria.

On Sunday, 23 January 1983, the Togolese ambassador had a meeting with the Beninese minister of the interior and the authorities of this brother country took all measures to allow the Togolese convoys to enter their country and escort them in an orderly fashion to the Togo-Benin border at Hila Kondji.

Speaking to our fellow citizens, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation conveyed to them the greetings of the founding chairman and asked them to remain calm. He gave them useful advice to avoid panic. At the Togo-Benin border, at Hila Kondji, upon orders from the founding chairman, a welcome service has been set up making it possible to guide our fellow citizens to their hometowns in order to avoid long lines. Because of the mobilization of various services concerned, the entire welcoming operation is taking place normally.

As soon as he returned from PTA [Preferential Trade Area] this morning, a complete report was made to the founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally. Out of humanitarian consideration, the president of the republic and his Beninese counterpart immediately authorized convoys of Ghanaian refugees to cross their national territories. For the same humanitarian reasons, the founding chairman, who is convinced that the transportation by air or by sea of Ghanaian refugees would be too expensive for the brother Ghanaian Government, has immediately called upon Flight-Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings to send his minister of interior or his miniter of foreign affairs to Lome to examine on the spot with the Togolese counterparts the appropriate means of allowing the convoys of Ghanaian refugees to to to Accra by road.

Similarly, in agreement with the Upper Voltan authorities, as soon as he returned from PTA this morning, the founding chairman gave orders so that all necessary help may be given to Upper Voltan refugees in transit our national territory because, according to President Eyadema, African solidarity, especially in the subregion, must be fully implemented in these times when citizens of our states need the help of all our governments.

ANGOLA

AIR FORCE ANNIVERSARY SPEECH BY DEFENSE MINISTER

MB241331 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Speech by Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister of defense, at Luanda central base to mark the seventh anniversary of the Angolan Air Force on 21 January 1983 -- recorded]

[Excerpts] Comrades, we all know that imperialism has not abandoned its intentions and terrorist practices as it vainly attempts to change the course of our revolution. The conscious and determined response of our heroic people under the leadership of the MPLA, the vanguard of the Angolan working class, does not leave us any doubt that we have a strategic objective to achieve -- scientific socialism. Scientific socialism cannot in any way please imperialism, and this is why today our people still suffer from the (?acts), attacks, destruction, and massacres by the soldiers of the South African racist Army and by their puppets. The imperialist effort which is directed against the Southern African countries has been considerably strengthened, particularly against the People's Republic of Angola. The anachronistic apartheid regime, which has been transformed into a spearhead of imperialism in the region, does all it can to fulfill its role by destabilizing this part of Africa militarily, economically, and socially. In order to fulfill its role as [word indistinct] gendarme, it has strengthened its ties with similar regimes, particularly with Zionism.

Comrade officers, NCO's and soldiers of the People's Air Force of Angola/Air Defense [FAPA/DAA]: Imperialist aggression demands even greater sacrifice from our side and in the trenches of defense along the country's southern border. The sacrifices we bear constitute a valuable contribution for the defense of our Angolan [words indistinct] and FAPA/DAA's pilots, technicians, and other experts.

Dear comrades: About a month ago we went to Negage to preside over the closing session of the first course of Air Force officers and specialists, which was held at the (Commander Pula) Air Force national school, where nearly 200 youngsters were trained to take their places in this important sector of the armed forces. This course, as well as the others taking place, is part of the vast process of forming FAPA/DAA cadres, both at home and abroad. These courses and other activities are basic components of the organizational process of the Air Force and air defense so that it can fulfill more important tasks. As Comrade President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos said in his New Year message: The racist enemy and its lackeys do not leave us any alternative other than to defend our fatherland as one. The defense of our country, its territorial integrity and our barely won sovereignty demand our military, human, materiel, and technical efforts. The involvement of each one of you, comrade officers, is the basic requirement for the realization of the objectives which we have just stated.

Comrade officers, comrade guests: I cannot lose the opportunity of addressing the sector of our youth which is not yet wearing the uniform of our glorious Armed Forces. I would like to recall the guideline which says that every citizen is and must necessarily feel like a soldier. Therefore, young journeymen, peasants, students, and workers, FAPLA calls for your firm and conscious dedication.

Lately, imperialist aggression has suddenly increased, particularly aggression by American imperialism since the change of administration at the White House.

The government circles of the United States, the Republic of South Africa and a number of other states and NATO members have adopted the use of force to resolve important problems which countries should work together to resolve. Washington's foreign policy and military leaders declare as spheres of their vital interests the world's vast areas which are situated thousands of kilometers away from the United States. Imperialism's main actions are aimed against the peoples who have freed themselves from colonial dependence, particularly against our country, the People's Republic of Angola, which has chosen the progressive path as the best way of development to serve the popular masses. During the 1981-82 period, through racist South Africa and with direct support from the United States, imperialism took countless military actions, large-scale invasions against our country. The aim was to make Angola change its revolutionary course while making concessions to the Western countries regarding the resolution of Namibia's independence.

Finally I want to point out the contribution of our Soviet and Cuban comrades who tirelessly share their experience in strengthening our Armed Forces.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

REPORTS OF U.S. BANK LOAN NOT CONFIRMED

MB260705 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The Angolan news agency ANGOP quotes Angolan National Bank sources as saying that they are unaware of a $300-million loan to be granted by the American Chase Manhattan Bank to the People's Republic of Angola. According to ANGOP, reports about such a loan were first carried by the Portuguese news agency ANOP yesterday, quoting official New York circles linked to that banking corporation. It must be pointed out that ANOP itself said that their sources did not give details regarding the interest rate nor the repayment period on the loan.

MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM ANC ON ATTACKS

MB260753 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The African National Congress draws the attention of the international community to the attack and atrocities perpetrated by the racist Pretoria regime in Maseru which resulted in the killing of 42 people, including 10 Lesotho citizens, last year. It said this in a message sent to the Government of Lesotho from its headquarters in Lusaka.

Following this criminal attack the Pretoria regime is contriving further sinister actions against Lesotho, the ANC said. The message added that this policy of terror is aimed at sabotaging and strangling economically the Kingdom of Lesotho. The ANC appeal to the international community is to condemn this sinister act by the Pretoria regime and ensure that appropriate measures are taken and implemented.

The message thanked the Lesotho Government for its courage and said despite the flagrant violations of its sovereignty and other acts of aggression undertaken by the racist regime of South Africa, it has publicly proclaimed its steadfast determination to adhere to the U.N. resolutions and to continue to offer asylum to those seeking refuge from the apartheid regime of terror.

The message concludes by saying that the ANC believes that the economic, political and diplomatic actions of the international community and independent Africa in particular, and the Nonaligned Movement, can render valuable assistance to the Kingdom of Lesotho during the hour of trial.

MOZAMBIQUE

TWO MORE PORTUGUESE NATIONALS DETAINED

MB251207 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Text] The newspaper DIARIO DE MACAMBIQUE has reported that two more Portuguese nationals have been detained in the city of Beira following investigations on activities against the security of the Mozambican state. The Portuguese detained are Antonio Fernandes da Cunha Fonseca, a skipper for the Beira Industrial Fishing Company, and Antonio Martins da Silva Guerra, a departmental head at the East African shipping.

Antonio Fernandes da Cunha Fonseca is accused of publicly furthering the campaign of armed banditry in our country among his colleagues and acquaintances. Regarding Antonio Guerra, his detention was based on the illegal sale of his house in Beira in exchange for foreign currency. The house was sold to the shipping company, Manica de Mocambique, with the connivance of its director, Dion Hamilton, who has also been detained on suspicion of involvement in sabotage activities.

VOFA COMMENTARY PIPELINE SABOTAGE, EXECUTIONS

MB251001 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Africa in Portuguese to Mozambique 1700 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] After the latest pipeline sabotage, and echoing what Maputo said, the international media quickly reported that the explosion on the pipeline had been the work of South Africans and that a white man was even seen in the area. That is absolutely false.

The recent pipeline sabotage has caused enormous losses, and because these were greater than previous losses observers were led to believe the reports about white specialists being present in the area and that they were South Africans. The foreign journalists, the Zimbabwe Government and Frelimo itself have thus issued a certificate of stupidity regarding black people.

What we cannot accept is that the Maputo government states that black Mozambicans are mentally retarded and therefore accuses the South Africans of being the only ones capable of damaging the Beira-Mutare pipeline. If black Mozambicans are not capable of grasping the techniques of how to use explosives, how is it that Samora Machel, a black Mozambican, is capable of ruling a country?

In December last year the religious denominations held a number of meetings with the Maputo government during which they talked about the illegalities and abuses committed by agents of the communist regime in violation of the country's Constitution. A month has not yet passed, and four Mozambicans have been executed by firing squad without being tried in any court of law or condemned in accordance with the country's laws.

The Maputo government, which does not respect human rights at home, is represented at the UN General Assembly, where it often joins other delegates in condemning human rights violations. In Maputo there are a number of embassies, and the diplomatic corps has the duty of informing the respective governments on the situation in Mozambique. The violations of the Constitution and the disregard for human rights as well the criminal manner in which four Mozambicans were murdered in Macia are facts known to the international community.

By remaining silent, the international community encourages governments to commit even greater barbarities, not only in Mozambique but in other countries as well. Joaquim Chissano was in Macia to preside over the criminal act of his country's leaders. The presence of the chief of the Maputo government diplomacy served not only to sanction the regime's irregularities but also to tell the world that the Maputo government is determined to demand from the people that they ruthlessly murder their own children at the expense of the law. It was Joaquim Chissano himself who suggested that the people in Macia kill the four captured elements, and when they refused to comply with his suggestion, the prisoners were handed over to the Frelimo soldiers, who are now trying new forms of barbarity and savagery to terrorize the Mozambican people in an effort to stop the popular revolt against the Maputo communist government.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA CONFIRMS RSA-ANGOLA NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME

LD252208 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Jan 83

[Excerpt] South African officials are to travel to Cape Verde this week to arrange for another meeting there with Angolan officials. The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, said a representative of the department would be arranging a suitable date and venue for the meeting with officials in Cape Verde. Mr Botha said he could understand why matters of this nature elicited such widespread interst, but although he appreciated the interest, one had to understand that such sensitive negotiations could not be conducted in public. Mr Botha said the meeting between representatives of the South African and Angolan Governments in Cape Verde in December 7 last year on independence for South-West Africa/Namibia dealt in particular with conditions for a trial period for peace in the border region between South-West Africa/Namibia and Angola.

UNITA THREATENS TO IGNORE ANGOLA CEASE-FIRE

MB260920 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0700 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] The Angolan rebel movement UNITA says it will ignore a cease-fire between South Africa and Angola. It has threatened to violate such an agreement unless it is included in the negotiations between the two countries. A UNITA official has said in Lisbon there can be no demilitarization in southern Angola unless UNITA is included in the deal.

There has been speculation that South Africa is on the verge of clinching a cease-fire with Angola on the wartorn Angola-Namibia border.

AMBASSADOR TO MEET UN SECRETARY GENERAL

MB260751 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Excerpt] At the United Nations the South African delegation has announced that the South African ambassador to Washington, Dr Brand Fourie, who played a key role in negotiations on South-West Africa, will meet the secretary general of the United Nations for talks today.

Earlier Mr Perez de Cuellar said at a news conference that bedore departing on a tour of seven African countries toward the end of this month he will be in contact with South Africa to establish if there are any firm ideas he could convey to the countries in southern Africa who had involved themselves in the South-West African issue.

He said that during his tour he would discuss possible ways of expediting South-West African independence, but could see no reason at this stage for a visit to South Africa although he said, this could become important at a later stage.

BOTHA DISMISSES SPECULATION ON EARLY ELECTION

MB261219 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 26 Jan 83

[Text] There will be no early election in South Africa. Prime Minister Pieter Botha has dismissed speculation of an early poll in response to an inquiry from the Cape newspaper, DIE BURGER. Botha says the country had an election 2 years ago. He says, in his words: We cannot live on elections alone, we have work to do. Botha says his government has not considered an election. He says he feels speculation about one is a result of opposition party attempts to obtain enthusiasm from their supporters.

ZIMBABWE

USHEWOKUNZE ON NEED FOR STATE OF EMERGENCY

MB251449 Harare THE HERALD in English 20 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] The need to renew the state of emergency is more urgent now than ever, the minister of home affairs, Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, told the House of Assembly yesterday.

In an hour-long speech moving the renewal, he said that during the past couple of months Zimbabwe had witnessed "an intensified and more determined effort by forces of disruption, aimed at dislocating government programmes to bring about a true and real socialist state based on social justice for all".

Citing the recent murders by dissidents on the Bulawayo-Gweru road and in Nyamandhlovu at Christmas and New Year, Cde Ushewokunze said it would be "a dangerous luxury -- if not reckless abandon -- to rely solely on the normal machineries of state to bring about law and order in the country."

"We are dealing with a dangerous, albeit politically misguided, practical problem, government must be able not only to rule but be seen to rule."

This could only be achieved, under the circumstances, by removing some of the fetters that made it impossible to achieve that objective.

Those who lost at the ballot box and on the battlefield had thought to weaken Zimbabwe by sponsoring bandits and dissidents.

"As they have failed to bring our society to a halt utilising internally-mounted attacks, our enemies have sought external footholds."

Hence the constant attacks on fuel supply lines through Mozambique, bandits crossing into Zimbabwe from South Africa, attacks on Zimbabwe's military and economic infrastructure, and on innocent travellers.

"All these are signs that as we defeat banditry from within our enemies will mount even fiercer and more desperate attacks from without."

With this change in tactics new measures were needed to respond to the situation.

The emergency regulations provided the government with powers to remove the public from an area where security operations were in progress.

"While we hope this will be unnecessary, we must remain prepared for any eventuality."

The state of emergency must be renewed "so that we can now consolidate our gains and prepare to counter the desperately-mounted attacks on an innocent population".

The government needed the flexibility of the state of emergency regulations, because nobody could tell what form sabotage would take tomorrow.

Those of us who might know of our enemy's plans are certainly not about to stand in this house and inform the nation," Cde Ushewokunze added.

Before independence, emergency regulations had been used to oppress people.

"Today we would like to see these powers deployed in the service of our people and we shall apply transformative violence to combat the violence of bandits and dissidents."

In calling upon the house to renew the emergency regulations and maintain them "for a considerable time", he was "only asking for a firm foothold while we prepare the next step".

He accepted that the regulations were only a temporary measure, adding: "I am also aware that this temporary measure is absolutely necessary if we are the regain our breath and regroup."

The country's security would only be guaranteed when all Zimbabweans became organised to defend their own communities, and the emergency regulations were needed while society was transformed for collective action.

"When my collegues and I prepare and present a bill defining community defence organs, we shall then stand here again and ask for the abolition of the state of emergency.

"I look forward to that day, but in the meantime I must ask the house to renew the emergency."

"Where a band of outlaws is bent on creating conditions which threaten the welfare of the state and the security of the citizen, the law enforcement agencies must be sufficiently empowered and entrusted with sufficient "oomph" to act without too much restraint or constraints."

The last attacks by bandits and dissidents pointed to their being the work of "desperate and demoralised small groups of people.

"I would challenge these bandits to engage our security forces directly and spare our poeple this senseless suffering.

"Our people, especially in the rural areas, suffered enough at the hands of Ian Smith's Selous Scouts, but I know I am challenging a bunch of cowards."

Earlier Cde Ushewokunze refused a request for information and details on people being held in detention from Mr Geoffrey York (RD, Mazowe/Mutoko).